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THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST, 2016

Christmas Cheer at Cadoxton & Cardiff Road - PAGES 24-28

Rhoose & St Athan for a cosy village Christmas - PAGES 30-31

In and around Bridgend in the run up to Christmas - PAGES 33-35

Busy Cub Scouts in mood to celebrate!

ABOVE: Cowbridge Cubs and Beavers at the tree planting ceremony last Saturday morning.

THE Cowbridge Cub Scouts have been very busy this year celebrating 100 years in the movement – and the Beavers are celebrating a 30 years milestone.

I would like to say what a wonderful day we all had on Saturday, November 26, when we had 105 native trees from the Woodland Trust to plant alongside the river near the park *pictured above right*).

We also buried a time capsule, with lots of stories from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Mayor, Coun Elizabeth George put something special in there, too!

Jon Greatrex and Coun Gwyn John from the Vale Council were there to help us, and Jon explained to everyone how and where to plant the trees.

We had about 50 people to help, which was a great turn-out. We were so lucky that Vale Memorials donated a lovely plaque and the time capsule.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who made the day special.

On Sunday, we were also very busy selling wonderful reindeer that the Scout group had been busy making to raise money towards international expeditions. Thank you to everyone for their support.

And don't forget the Scout post!

Christine Mallett,
Cowbridge Cubs Leader

Santa's on his sleigh and heading for Cowbridge.
(See page 3)

Student Benjamin's charity Jailbreak...

...raises £1,045 in 48 hours!

BENJAMIN JONES, a student at Imperial College, London, who is from Llanblethian, raised £1,045 for a number of charitable causes with a fellow student in less than 48 hours.

Benjamin, who attended Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Howell's College in Llandaff, told The GEM: "On November 26 and November 27, I, and my fellow first year Imperial student Daisy Miller, took part in the Big Jailbreak 2016.

"This was organised by the RAG (raising and giving) branch of Imperial College Union.

"The Big Jailbreak 2016 is a charity challenge where you have 36 hours to travel as far as you can from London without using any of your own money.

"You are sponsored to take part in this challenge. Sponsorship is still open and we receive donations at our BTMyDonate page.

"None of the sponsorship money is used for our travel, all of it goes to The British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Action Aid.

"The challenge began at 9am on Saturday, November 26. We then went around London for the next 10 hours telling strangers what our challenge was and trying to raise money from them so we could use it for travel.

"That Saturday evening we returned to halls and looked for cheap plane and coach tickets that could take us as far as possible without spending any of our own money.

"We found flights with Ukraine International Air to Istanbul's Ataturk Airport via Kiev's Boryspil International Airport.

"We then took a coach to Gatwick and spent the next 12 hours travelling. We arrived at Istanbul, and stayed the night.

"The challenge concluded at 9pm GMT on Sunday, November 27, at which time our final position was recorded.

"We had travelled 2,503km from London without spending any of our own money.

"We spent the night in Istanbul before returning to the UK in time for afternoon lectures on Monday."

A total of £1,045 within 48 hours is an impressive total. If people would like to top up Ben and Daisy's overall figure, please go to: *https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/icjailbreak2016*

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Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Young knights of the road

MY sincere, heartfelt thanks to the two Knights of the Road who helped me during the recent heavy rainfall.

On my way from St Athan to Rhoose on the Monday afternoon, after getting through a few flooded patches of road, my car gave up on the last one and stopped in the middle of a flooded lane.

Within minutes, a young man kindly offered to push my car out of the water and onto the side of the lane. Then another young man in a van drove alongside and offered to have a look to see what could be done.

In next to no time, he assessed all was well and on a turn of the ignition, we were up and running.

What fabulous young men. I was, and am, so grateful for their help in a rather scary situation. Sincere thanks for your kindness and time, which was priceless.

Patricia Rauch, St Athan.

...NOT A FAIR COP

ON Monday, November 21, I was standing at the bus stop on the Eglwys Brewis road at about 4.30pm; the drains were blocked and the road was a small lake.

Motorists edged slowly through it – not least because they could clearly see me at the bus stop – even though I was standing well back from the kerb.

All, that is, except for a police car which made no effort to slow down and sent up a five-foot wall of water that reached six feet over the kerb and drenched me from head to toe, even though I retreated to the max when I saw that they were not going to slow down.

They did not have a siren on and there was no sign that they were on their way to an emergency. Either they didn't look, or didn't care – or perhaps both.

This was witnessed by a dog-walker who could not believe the driver's recklessness.

The only plus from this incident was a kind man who stopped and offered me a lift to my destination – many thanks to him for his kindness.

As for the South Wales Police – no excuse. At best, it shows an unacceptable disregard for pedestrians. ***(Name and address supplied).***

Club social night

FRIDAY, November 25 saw another successful event organised by the social committee at Millwood Bowls Club.

Members and their guests were invited to try their hands at a wide variety of indoor sports, ranging from bar skittles and darts to table tennis and charades, with many more in between.

The enjoyment and entertainment went on until late and was voted an unqualified success by all present; at which time Jean Rogers and Steve Sewell had amassed enough points to be awarded a bottle of wine for their endeavours!

Members are reminded that this Saturday (December 3) is Christmas coffee morning at 10.30am; Friday, December 16 is Christmas cabaret and buffet. **BH**

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'Bypass route will add 10,000 houses at Dinas Powys'

THERE appears to be a move to inform residents regarding plans for the site of the former St Cyres School site at Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys.

After years of secrecy, and a refusal to explain, I suppose this is progress. What we do know is that the Local Development Plan has earmarked this site for a substantial number of houses.

The only route off site will be along Murch Road towards the traffic lights on the main road. As we know, this road is often log jammed, even without flooding problems. The planners have confirmed that there will be no access via Sully Road.

There is now a growing realisation that the tentative route of any bypass will be across the land that is allocated for housing. Plaid Cymru councillors did point this out when the Local Development Plan was being discussed. In fact, we voted against the approval of this plan that will add 10,000 houses, but will fail to address the traffic, environmental and social consequences.

It was a shame that we did not have the support of the Conservative councillors at that stage.

The truth is that with almost every large and small development site, Conservatives have supported the development plans. On rare occasions, they managed to abstain.

So when you hear people demanding a bypass, ask them why Conservatives voted to build across the route of any road.

Ask them where they will find the £60 million required in times of austerity.

Ask them why they have only woken up now?

Coun Chris Franks, Dinas Powys
Plaid Cymru.

Poppy appeal had a marvellous response

THE Royal British Legion at Llantwit Major would like to thank everyone for their generous donations during the Poppy Appeal fortnight.

So far, we have raised £7016.66, which is marvellous news.

Every penny goes to the welfare of the young and old who require the Legion's aid, not only in the financial sense, but also in retraining injured service personnel and supporting their families with Poppy holidays, and handymen who go around to do small maintenance jobs when required – and the list goes on.

If you would like to join us, please come along to our meetings on the third Monday in every month, held in the local rugby club at 7pm.

Maureen Geary-Andrews,
Secretary, RBL Llantwit Major.

'Lack of money? What a joke!'

HERE we go again – the Labour Party, as the leaders of the Welsh Assembly – are asking the London Parliament for more money for Wales – as they cannot carry out the programme for so many Welsh needs.

At the same time, they continue with cycle paths through an industrial estate on the outskirts of Bridgend costing £200,000 from Bridgend CBC, and for new maps of cycle and pedestrian walks.

Furthermore, it is strongly rumoured that the pedestrian areas of Bridgend and Porthcawl are to be returned to vehicle roads.

What was the cost when they were pedestrianised – £4, 6, 8 million, and probably now a similar sum?

Lack of money? What a joke!

Barry Hoey,
Brocastle.

Christmas appeal for needy children

THE Big Wrap provides presents to disadvantaged children and young people (0-19) in the Vale who are at risk of receiving nothing, or very little, for Christmas.

Last year, over 300 children were supported, and this year's appeal has already received over 200 referrals.

Working in partnership with local agencies, the Big Wrap is run by volunteers and relies entirely on donations from local organisations and members of the public.

Presents will be given to children and young people identified by frontline care professionals, including social workers, local charities and churches.

We are so grateful to members of the public for their generous support. Every present we receive will be given to a child or young person who might otherwise receive nothing or very little for Christmas.

The Big Wrap is happy to receive toys (which should be new and unwrapped) and gift tokens or financial donations.

Donations can be taken to the Vale Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry any time up until December 16. Cheques (made payable to The Big Wrap) can be sent to Coastlands Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot, Barry (CF62 9TN).

Susan Lloyd-Selby,
Big Wrap coordinator.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'Thank you for help in our hour of need'

I WOULD like to thank The GEM for highlighting the ongoing flooding problems we have to endure in Boverton.

Last weekend, both our home and our near neighbour's property flooded when the local river overtopped the river walls.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who helped us through yet another traumatic episode of flooding.

Firstly, to the Fire Service who evacuated our neighbour and her grand daughter in the early hours of Sunday morning, and later ensured both properties were cleared of water.

We are also grateful to the NRW operative who monitored the situation and contacted the emergency services on our behalf.

Thanks must also go to Miles Punter of the Vale Council, who provided operatives to pump water from our home and also ensuring heavy furniture was elevated to safe levels within our home, and also to Coun Gwyn John, our AM Jane Hutt and MP Alun Cairns for taking the time to visit us.

Finally, thanks to all our very good friends who offered help and assistance to us in our hour of need, and also to the kind strangers who called to see if they could offer help in any way.

A new, long overdue culvert is to be constructed in Boverton early next year, and we sincerely hope this will greatly reduce the prospect of similar flooding incidents in the future.

While we wait for the new culvert project to start, I would emphasise that it is not only Boverton that floods during severe weather in this locality.

Llanmaes village also has ongoing problems as does the Ham Manor Estate, and I only hope that work to reduce the possibility of flooding is also completed in those locations in the near future.

Colm and Sue O'Shea,
Boverton,

'Thanks for rescue from the floods'

A HUGE message of thanks and gratitude to Jason, of Vale Garage Services in Rhoose, who towed my friend to safety when she became trapped in flooding on Fontygary Road on Monday, November 21.

I rang Jason for advice and without hesitation he went to her rescue. We can't thank him enough for his kindness and immediate help. It is at times like this we appreciate our local services.

Janet Blythe,
Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
01 Thur	07.17	9.6	19.31	9.6
02 Fri	07.48	9.5	20.03	9.4
03 Sat	08.22	9.3	20.38	9.2
04 Sun	08.58	9.1	21.16	9.0
05 Mon	09.37	8.8	21.59	8.7
06 Tues	10.27	8.5	22.51	8.3
07 Wed	11.26	8.3	23.57	8.2
08 Thur			12.34	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa and sleigh are coming to visit you soon

COWBRIDGE Rotary Santa Sleigh for 2016 gets under way soon and the route schedule and collection times are between 5pm and 7.30pm.

Tuesday, December 6: Broadshoard, Westgate, Tyla Rosyr, Darren Close, Bowman's Well, Bowman's Way, Geraint's Way, Seys Close, Stradling Close, Leoline Close, St Bleddian's Close, Wolf Close, Geraint's Close.

Wednesday, December 7: High Street, Middlegate Walk, Middlegate Court, Millfield Drive, Druids Green, Melbourne Close, Eastgate, The Limes, Borough Close, Cae Stumpie, Aubrey Terrace, Croft Street, Croft Terrace.

Thursday, December 8: Town Mill Road, River Walk, The Verlands, Constitution Hill, Mill Park, Love Lane, Porth-y-Green Close, Windmill Lane, Broadway, West End.

Friday, December 9: Broadway town end, Brookfield Park, St John's Close, Bessant Close, Llanquian Close, Lakeill Drive, Clare Drive, Talyfan Close, Claire Drive, St Athan Road, Crescent Close, Hillside Drive, Vale Court, Primrose Close, Cardiff Road, Geoffrey Ashe Court, Greenside, The Paddock, New Forest View.

Tuesday, December 13: Aberthin Road, pubs, Llanquian Road, Maes Lloi, Downs View Close, Downs View, The Orchard, Court Close, Ystradowen, Tynmawr, Ash Close, opposite Tudor Garage, St Owain's Crescent, Sandy Lane, Radcliffe Walk, Badger's Brook, Old Estate, The Meadow, The Larches, Clos Ffawydden, Ffordd y Dderwen.

Wednesday, December 14 to Friday, December 16: Catch up days.

Santa's Grotto will be outside Café Nero, Birds Lane, Cowbridge, on Saturday, December 17 between 9am to 5pm.

The juxtaposition of light and dark in late autumn

NOVEMBER can be a testing month for photography. Bad weather weakens the resolve but when the sun shines it is low in the sky creating harsh shadows that demand skillful techniques.

Mark Lunn receiving the trophy.

Vale Photographic Club has attempted to brighten members spirits with innovative content in its programme for this month. We started with a presentation by Allan Squires from our neighbouring club, Gwynfa, whose passion is sports photography: and in all weathers! It included both legs and wheels!

And we finished the month with a presentation by his club-mate Alec Stewart. His theme was 'My local patch', in which he presented beautiful images from close to his home thereby encouraging us all to seek the photographic opportunities close to our own homes.

Readers can share our enjoyment by doing a Google search for his website.

But our own members provided the innovations. Mike Davies (left in photo) critiqued members' attempts to present 'Three in Harmony': prints that individually not only were of a high photographic quality but when presented next to each other displayed strong cohesion.

This required further attention be given to a host of presentational qualities. The standard of members' work was very high but the stunning images entered by member Mark Lunn (see photo) were considered by all to fully achieve the brief.

Finally, we were introduced by member Nick Craddock and a friend from his university days to a sister club in Lerwick, Shetland Isles, through the wonders of the internet. The two clubs have exchanged files of 20 of their members images. We studied the images from Lerwick closely and gathered together our collective thoughts to report back on features of each image that we particularly liked – and others which we thought might be improved upon and how.

It was not that long ago that the media regularly referred to the 'global village'. This was surely an example.

Thec club meets on Fridays at 7.15pm at Ystradowen Village Hall between September-June. New members are welcome. **GH**

Collin didn't make an ass of himself

Collin with Joseph Mary during the service.

ON Advent Sunday, the service in St Michael's Church, Colwinston was led by the Reverend Alan Kettle, assisted by Collin the donkey and Mary, Anna Lycett, and Joseph, Alfie Marks.

Anna, Alfie, Harriet, Evie, Katie and William read a poem about the donkey and Collin stood very patiently throughout the proceedings.

The Posada Bags, which contain a model Mary, Joseph and Donkey were blessed and will be distributed around the villages of Colwinston, Llandow and Llysworney with each home giving them shelter for a night on their symbolic journey to Bethlehem.

The service was completed with a Eucharist and a final hymn and blessing for this Advent.

Foot tapping to the sound of the Old Spice Quartet

AT the November meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club, there was no quiz, board games or craft for the members, but there was plenty of foot tapping when they were entertained by the Old Spice Barber Shop Quartet.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon which was finished off with a selection of Christmas songs.

There will be no meeting in December, but members are invited to a Christmas party run by the Age Cymru Good Neighbour Scheme in Llantwit Major, where they will have another chance to listen to the Old Spice Barber Shop Quartet, who will be supplying the entertainment at this party.

The next meeting of the club will be in January, when members have been asked to bring along photographs of themselves when they were young, so it will be a case of matching the photos to the members.

We always have a variety of activities at our meetings throughout the year, so if you or anyone you know would like to join our Friendship Club where transport is provided, please call 01656 668446.

Pat Smith, Leader

Advent concert planned

MUSIC for the season of Advent will be presented by the Bella Donna and Early Byrd choirs, directed by Geoff Howells, at 7.30pm on Friday, December 2 in Llanblethian church.

Tickets £10 (including refreshments) will be available on the door.

Bridge for Children in need

THE Cowbridge Old Hall Bridge Club held a Children in Need simultaneous pairs event on Wednesday, November 16 and the results are as follows:

Children in Need, November 16: First, Allan Lewis and John Raymond, 65.63 per cent; second , Ann Miller and Teri Pollard, 56.25 per cent; third, Mary Wallace and Myrtle Hansard, 55.90 per cent.

Club night, November 23: First, Sara Bartlett and James Mangles, 64.58 per cent; second, Allan Lewis and John Raymond, 64.29 per cent; third, Mearl Owen and Eira Howell, 55.90 per cent.

The club meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Annex 5, Old Hall, Cowbridge. Visitors are welcome; call Helen Barrie on 01446 774148.

JM

FROM SOUTH WALES TO THE WEST END...

Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupils in the West End.

ON November 20, seven Cowbridge Comprehensive School Drama Performance Troupe students performed at one of London's most prestigious venues, Her Majesty's Theatre in the heart of the West End.

Congratulations to Tom Johnson, Cerys May, Eve Bird, Catherine Harrison, Robyn Edwards, Mali Ford and Patrick Sheppard, along with past student Hannah Clarke.

They all attend Stagecoach Performing Arts School, either in Cowbridge or Bridgend, where they have shown exceptional commitment to their Stagecoach training, and rehearsed hard as a 'Performance Troupe' for this West End opportunity.

Their fantastic performance, showcasing the career of Michael Jackson, certainly wowed the West End crowd, and they received huge applause from the packed auditorium as they 'closed the show'! We are very proud of them all. **DC**

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SANTA IN COWBRIDGE

KIDS, adults and even the new phenomenom of 'kidults' were kicking off a fun old -fashioned family Christmas by heading into Cowbridge in their own front-wheel drive sleighs to embrace the frosty majesty of the winter landscape and that most important of Christmas symbols: Santa and his sleigh, when the most enjoyable traditions of the season are best enjoyed in the warm embrace of kith and kin...

And with a glass of mulled wine.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Young musicians enthral audience at the local Rotarians' competition

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Rotary clubs held their Young Musician (vocalist) competition in Cowbridge Comprehensive School on November 23, with nine competitors singing classical, light and popular songs.

Rhianna Hogg started off the evening with the well-known 'Walking in the Air' from *The Snowman* followed by 'Oom Pah Pah' from the musical *Oliver* written by Lionel Bart.

Next was Megan Lowrie, who sang 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' from the *Wizard of Oz*, then 'When Daisies Pied' by Thomas Arne.

Alice Voisey Smith began with a song in Italian, Scarlatti's 'O Cessate Di Piargarmi' and followed on with a contrasting song from the musicals genre *Sound of Music*.

Ruby Davies sang 'How Could I Ever Know' from *The Secret Garden* then 'Think of Me' from *The Phantom of the Opera*. Ioan Wardhaugh sang in Italian 'Amarilli, Mia Bella' by Caccini and finished with 'Luck be a Lady' from *Guys and Dolls,* followed by Tom Hamilton, who also sang an Italian song 'Per la Gloria D'adorarvi', then from *Les Miserables*, he gave his rendition of 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables'.

The judges could not separate the second and third prize winners, so opted to award joint second place to Patrick Sheppard and Seren Hamilton.

Patrick's first song was 'Ich Liebe Dich' by Grieg followed by 'Corner of the Sky' from *Pippin* by Stephen Schwartz.

Seren performed 'Caro Mio Ben' by Guiseppe Giordani with the contrasting 'Maybe I Like it This Way' from Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*.

The first prize in this competition went to Charlotte Adams who for her first piece, sang in German Schumann's 'Widmung'. Her second piece, 'Vanilla Ice Cream' from *She Loves Me* by Bock and Harnick was sung with great humour and dramatic style.

When the judges retired to make their very difficult decisions, the audience was treated to a quartet of very talented young ladies; Sarah Jones, Emily Jenkins, Aisling McCormack Thomas and India Maurice, who sang a medley of songs by Abba, then 'All I want for Christmas is You' in close harmony. We were told that the arrangements for these songs had been put together by the girls themselves.

Next, we were treated to some wonderful jazz music by trumpeter Tom Graham Jose. Jazz is not the easiest of music to play, but accompanied on the piano by head of performing arts, Adrian Colborne, he gave a wonderful performance of 'Doxy' by Sonny Rollins, then 'Song for my Father' by Horace Silver and, lastly, 'Cantaloupe Island' by Herbie Hancock, with plenty of improvisation.

The judging panel comprised professional soprano Iona Jones, operatic baritone Wyn Pencarreg and retired head of Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service, Jeff Davies.

They complimented all of the competitors on their artistic performances and gave advice and comment to each of the performers.

The president of Llantwit Major Rotary Club, Charles Anderson, thanked the competitors for displaying such talent and wished them well for the future.

First prizewinner Charlotte will go forward to the next round of the competition, which will be held early in 2017. The instrumentalist heat of the competition is due to take place on Wednesday, November 30 **TC**

Contestants, judges and President Charles.

ABOVE: Charlotte Adams, Charles Seren Hamilton, Patrick Sheppard.

Lions' helping hand for Pyle-based charity

BRIDGEND Lions' president John Paton is pictured presenting a cheque for £400 to Leanne Toy, the organiser/chair of the Follow Your Dreams Technology Club at Pyle Life Centre.

Accompanying the president are members of his welfare committee, chairperson John Craxton and Bryant Thomas.

Leanne founded the club in June 2015 and it has gone from strength to strength. The club caters for children with autism, ADHD, anxiety problems with great emphasis on families making sure no-one is excluded.

Weekly activities include art work, computer and game sessions, regular gym workouts plus a new trampoline class.

Lagoons and a protest are on the agenda

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, at 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 6.

Joanna Lane, development manager with Tidal Lagoon Power, will give a presentation on the Cardiff/Swansea lagoons and this will be followed by a discussion on 'green' energy, not forgetting our campaign against the 'dirty' fuel incinerator on Barry's dockside.

Members of the FoE Group will be making presentations against the Vale's housing approvals at Cog Moors/Dinas Powys and other settlements in the Vale, when the additions to the LDP are given public examination in 2017.

Also in January 2017, members will be joining the many objectors to the proposal to make Five Mile Lane a 60mph highway through open fields and ending up with environmental destruction in Barry Valley's ancient woodlands.

Anyone interested in these environmental issues is welcome to come along.

KEITH STOCKDALE
Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth co-ordinator

Cementing green supply chain...

TARMAC'S Aberthaw Cement plant has opened a rail facility which will ensure that 2,500 truck movements will be removed from the road each year as the company delivers on its pledge to support sustainable delivery of materials, and cut transport CO2.

The rail connection will mean that trains will be used to transport cement in Wales for the first time in over 20 years. Aberthaw is playing a key role in supporting Tarmac's commitment to enhancing its rail freight capabilities to delivery of more sustainable infrastructure projects, while also honouring the plant's commitment to improving the local environment.

The opening of the facility means that bulk cement, which was previously transported by road, will now be loaded onto freight trains and dispatched via rail to the company's depots across Wales and the south west of the UK.

Penllyn Bridge Club results

THE latest results for Penllyn Bridge Club for November are as follows:

Thursday, November 3, Robert Brown Cup (19 pairs): First, D and M Stephenson, 59.11 per cent; second, W Stephens and J Frampton, 57.95 per cent; third, D Williams and P Hanmer, 57.29 per cent.

Thursday, November 10 (21 pairs): First, J and C Nunn, 65.4 per cent; second, D and M Stephenson, 59.6 per cent; third, A Evans and K Price, 56.82 per cent.

Thursday, November 17 (20 pairs): First, J Lord and J Ilsley, 59.95 per cent; second, M and H Thomas, 58.86 per cent; third, R Williams and G Harding, 57.87 per cent.

Thursday, November 24, Robert Brown Cup (18 pairs): First, A Evans and K Price, 61.93 per cent; second, J Lord and J Ilsley, 59.94 per cent; third, J Evans and G Wybrow, 58.52 per cent. **CN**

Send us your news. See full contact details on page 2.

CHAMBER CHIEF THANKS COMMUNITY AFTER 'REINDEER PARADE' SUCCESS

COWBRIDGE Chamber of Trade are hailing this year's reindeer parade and light switch-on as a huge success, with the parade bringing a record crowd of possibly 25,000 people to the town.

The addition of floats supplied by the Tractor Boys from Aberthin and decorated by Sarah and Chriss Legg of No39, High Street and Esther Hitchcock and the girls from Jon Ian, certainly added more of a carnival feel to the parade, making it the biggest ever, attracting visitors to the town not only from the Vale and all over Wales, but also the south of England and the Midlands.

Alun John, the chairman of the Chamber of Trade said: "Following the disappointment of last year's atrocious weather, we wanted to make this year's parade something special and invited a number of community groups to be involved.

"We were delighted to welcome the Tractor Boys, Cubs and Scouts to the parade for the first time and look forward to hopefully getting more and more community involvement in the future.

"I would like to thank everyone and all the organisations involved in organising this year's parade, making it without doubt the biggest and, I think, the best we have ever put together.

"I'd especially like to thank the Police and Vale and town councils, without whose help the event would not be able to take place, and our celebrity elves Rhodri and Lucy Owen, Ruth and Jonathan Wignall and the 'new boy' Ian H Watkins, who contribute far more to the event than just taking part in the parade and turning on the lights, along with all the other elves who put in a huge amount of work on the day.

"I'd also like to thank Waitrose and PA Black for additional sponsorship and Tesco and Co-op for the sweets they donated, along with all the Chamber of Trade members who pay for the event through their subscriptions.

"Also, thanks go to Aubrey Parsons, Paul Dark and all the performers on the stage, everyone who took part in the parade itself, Penllyne Estate, Cowbridge School and the Scouts for their help with extra car parking, and the Lions and Rotary Clubs. And my final 'thank you' goes to the one and only Santa.

"Apologies if I've forgotten to mention an individual or group, there are so many involved but I am very grateful to everyone for their help.

"Lastly, I'd like to emphasise that this is a charity and event and is organised by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade as a way of saying thank you to the community, and all street collections go to the Cowbridge and Llantwit Lions who this year collected nearly £2,000 and probably more than £30,000 since the event's inception."

Quiet reflection on Remembrance Sunday in Peterston-super-Ely

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY remembered the Fallen at St Peter's Church on Sunday, November 13, when around 80 villagers congregated at the Memorial Lych Gate for a short, poignant service.

There were readings from Michael and Hugo Morgan, and the wreath was laid by Major Alistair Wills. *Last Post* was played by Cathedral School pupil Daniel Welch.The morning began with the official opening of the memorial gates by Maj Wills to celebrate the transfer of the community field from the Vale Council to the Peterston Community Council.

St Athan tea party raises total of £1,255

ON Saturday, November 19, a Marie Curie Christmas Tea Party, was held at St Athan in memory of David Ruscoe and Douglas Legg.

It was organised by Catherine Davies and with the help of her family and friends, they raised £1,255 for the Holme Towers hospice in Penarth. David Ruscoe was Catherine's uncle.

She said: "I couldn't have achieved this without the generosity of people donating homemade bakes, which were sold on the day and local businesses supporting the event with fantastic raffle prizes.

"A big thank you to the managers of Barry Tesco, who supplied my Santa Claus with presents for the children.It was a fantastic day which brought the whole community together."

'THEY HELP WITH EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES'

Daughter nominates her son's caring grandparents for charity's award

GRANDPARENTS John and Catherine Kellaway from Barry, are in line for an award that recognises the family support they give in caring for their eight-year-old grandson Sebastian, who has Cerebral Palsy.

Their daughter, Emma Sargent who lives in Penarth, nominated them in disability charity Contact a Family's first ever awards, to "help shine a spotlight on the often unseen but wonderful things grandparents do for their families."

Emma, who works for the Vale Council, said: "My parents help our son Sebastian with every aspect of our lives. My dad John and Sebastian are best friends. They go everywhere together – the beach, the fairground, the park – my dad really makes sure Sebastian doesn't miss out on anything.

"My mum, Catherine, can't do more for us – helping with washing, ironing and generally keeping our house in order.

"Both give me and my husband, Adam, respite every Friday when they look after Sebastian so we have some time together and relax – and even come on holiday with us to help us take care of him.

"Sebastian even spent four months living with them while our house was being adapted for him. This was one of the most stressful times we've had but with their help we got through it.

"My parents are both retired now and I don't know what I'd do without them. They are simply the best grandparents in the world and I can't thank them enough. That's why when I heard about Contact a Family's awards I just knew I'd have to nominate them and take the opportunity to let them know how amazing I think they are!"

The Contact a Family Awards were set up by the national charity that supports families with disabled children, to celebrate the countless things UK families do when caring for disabled children. The grandparents category is one of six award categories.

Amanda Batten, CEO of Contact a Family commented: "I was touched to learn about Emma's story and what a difference her parents make to her family. We really can't believe the number of wonderful nominations that families have submitted - it is going to be really difficult for our judges to shortlist the finalists.

"Contact a Family supports families with disabled children whatever the disability or condition. Our awards are a fantastic opportunity for families to give someone special in their family's life the recognition they truly deserve."

The winners will be announced in January.

ABOVE: John and Catherine Kellaway with Adam, Sebastian and Emma Sargent.

CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE WINS APPRENTICESHIP AWARD

RIGHT: CAVCA work based learning quality and data team leader Maureen Bielski, CAVC dean of quality improvement Michell Hiller Forster, Pearson marketing director for apprenticeships Claire Riddle, CAVC dean of work based learning Andy Whitcombe, Jon Culshaw, CAVC deputy principal Kay Martin, CAVC director of information services and IT Evan Davies.

THE Cardiff and Vale College has won a national award for the innovative way it delivers apprenticeship provision.

It beat off stiff competition from the rest of the UK's further education (FE) institutions to win the Association of Colleges Beacon Award for Promotion and Delivery of Apprenticeships, sponsored by Pearson. The awards celebrate best practice among UK FE colleges.

TY HAFAN HOSPICE LOTTERY RESULTS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D959.

● **£2,000:** 936003.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 308180, 276443, 711428, 283821, 599616, 490862, 801720, 535641, 603477, 665878, 973829, 277616, 423750, 284013, 729322, 309949, 699839, 202334,100400, 1142120, 005526.

● **£5:** 659162, 737793, 159807, 366711, 167089, 489558, 872756, 643304, 870435, 382219, 726702, 724414, 574915, 171761, 398711, 371084, 307416, 393789, 908320, 391938, 803378, 552371, 108391, 798223, 775898, 196454, 644628, 476858, 482605, 188124, 166025, 215338, 870462, 492740, 617879, 495715, 524293, 919805, 802409, 201094, 243400, 839140, 734665, 880823, 102511, 737193, 667583, 103140, 485218, 151233, 161989, 800290, 898068, 123008, 484650, 536226, 295247, 862940, 001350.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

THE SCOUT POST IS BACK!

THE Scout Post is here again in the Vale for Christmas 2016, offering the public of Barry and parts of the Vale and Cardiff the opportunity to send Christmas cards at a fraction of the cost of Royal Mail.

The scheme is for Christmas Cards only and by using Scout Post, you are helping us to raise the much-needed funds to keep the scouting movement going in the area.

Groups involved are given stamps to sell in the area that they deliver to; this is not always in the area that they do their Scouting.

Stamps are also sold by retail outlets and cards are also posted at the same place.

Stamps are currently on sale from the following outlets within Barry: Arbuthnot Opticians, 6 Broad Street; Barry Community Hospital, Colcot Road; Barry Mini Market, 192 Barry Road; Brynhill Golf Club Pro Shop, Port Road; Clemwood Stores, 28 Dock View Road; Costcutter, 17 Merthyr Dyfan Road; Crescent Stores, 41-42 Park Crescent; Cross St Stores, 15 Cross Street; DOPS, 42 Dockview Road; Food for Thought (The Deli), 12 High Street; Barry Town Council – 7 Gladstone Road; Hairflair, Maes y Cwm Street; Hilary West Florist, Bayfield Nurseries, 86 Colcot Road; Lakeside Newsagents, 6 Bron-y-Mor; Londis, 27 Ivor Street, Barry Island; Onestop, Plas Cleddau (Cwm Parc); Copy it – 196 Holton Road; Marshals Butchers, 76 Holton Road; Nina's Estate Agent, Broad Street; One Stop, Broad Street; The Laundry Rooms – 25 Vere Street; Premier Stores (newsagents), 22-23 High Street; Roy's Toys, 93 Main Street; Ruckleys, 45 Holton Road; S R Bailey Pharmacy, 9 Vere Street; SAI Stores, 15 Coldbrook Road; Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road; Sandy's, 253 Holton Road; SS Stores Life Style Express, 38 Barry Road; Selley's convenience store 110 Park Crescent.

In Barry alone, 100,000 cards are delivered each year. Cards can only be delivered to the specified areas listed here. Any cards outside of these areas will not be delivered.

All undeliverable cards will be kept for a period of time then securely destroyed – do not post in Royal Mail boxes!

Vale of Glamorgan: Aberthin – Barry – Boverton – Bonvilston - Broughton Cadoxton - Cogan - Colwinston - Cowbridge – Craig Penllyne – Crossways – Dinas Powys – Dyffryn – East Aberthaw – Eglwys Brewis – Flemingston – Gileston – Llanbethery – Llanblethian – Llancarfan – Llandough – Llandough (CF71) – Llandow – Llanmaes – Llanmihangel – Llansannor – Llantrithyd – Llantwit Major – Llysworney – Maendy – Marcross – Monknash – Nash – Newton (CF71) – Penarth – Pendoylan – Penllyn – Penmark – Pentre Meryick – Peterston-super-Ely – Porthkerry – Prisk – Rhoose – Siginstone – St Athan – St Donats – St Georges – St Hilary – St Lythans – St Mary Church – St Mary Hill – St Nicholas – Sully – Tair Owen – The Downs – The Knap – Trehyngyll – Welsh St Donats – Wenvoe – Wick – Ystradowen.

Further information can be found at http://www.catvog.org/scoutpost/ .

Last date for posting is Monday, December 5.

ANTHONY WARE
1st Barry Sea Scout Group

SAVOYARDS EXCEL IN A G&S CLASSIC!

The production went 'with a zing'! Photographs by Keith E Morgan

WE all love a sailor – and the audience at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, watching *HMS Pinafore*, performed by the Mid Glamorgan Savoyards, loved the sailors, soloists, actors, chorus and orchestra who created the spirit of fun that is Gilbert and Sullivan.

The waves crashing on the Prom only added to the atmosphere. From the well known overture to the finale, the production went with a zing. A large chorus and orchestra filled the Pavilion with a wonderful sound.

As usual, the main soloists threw themselves into character. Linda Edwards as Mrs Cripps, "a plump and pleasant woman," also known as 'Little Buttercup' has a beautiful strong voice and acted her part perfectly, changing from a demure little woman, a woman with a secret and then into a slightly terrifying 'mystic'.

Chris Parsons as Ralph Rackstraw used his lugubrious face to great advantage as the Able Seaman in love with the captain's daughter. It's a classic G&S tale of love and class with the twist at the end which makes everything turn out well, with jokes at the expense of the Admiralty.

Both Rob Reynolds as Sir Joseph Porter, First Lord of the Admiralty who had never been to sea, and John Sadler as Captain Corcoran, took over the stage with their presence. Bronwen Beckett as Josephine, in love with our Able Seaman, showcased her vocal strength and acting ability throughout.

There were some lovely cameos from Chris Banks as Bill the Boatswain, Catherine Brown as Hebe and Gwyn Phillips as the carpenter Bob Becket. Of course we had to have a villain, Dick Deadeye, who was played with suitably rough enthusiasm and deep voice by Neil Davies. Such a strong cast!

The 30-piece orchestra under the baton of Roger Hudd kept up the momentum well. Cast and orchestra had only come together that afternoon and it is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of Roger, Andrew Griffiths and a group of friends that this, the Savoyards' 22nd charity event, was such a success.

The current profit totals £60,000, all for local charities. This year the charities benefiting are the Save The Children Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Kidney Research Unit Foundation, Wales. Proceeds from *HMS Pinafore* total £3,000. An amazing achievement indeed.

Dominique Spearey

Charity event

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CAVC sport students with their plaques and Run4Wales volunteer manager Naomi Warner and CAVC EPA Alyson Llewellyn.

College students awarded plaques by 'Run4 Wales'

CARDIFF and Vale College sport students have been given special plaques by Welsh Athletics' Run4Wales to thank them for their support during a series of sporting events.

Students from a range of the college's sport courses volunteered at hydration stations and in support roles during the IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championships and at last month's Cardiff Half Marathon.

CAVC Employability and Progressions Advisor Alyson Llewellyn said: "I asked students from my sport groups to sign up to become volunteers as it would count towards their work experience hours and enhance their CVs.

"Seventy turned up for the Cardiff World Half Marathon Championships, which was televised across 53 countries, and we had more volunteers for the Half Marathon. I am very proud of what they have achieved and consequently they are all progressing within their chosen sport with a glowing CV."

Naomi Warner, volunteer manager at Run4Wales, said: "On Sunday, October 2, 17,000 runners took to the streets of Cardiff to tackle the Cardiff Half Marathon, the second largest half marathon in the UK.

"A team of students from Cardiff and Vale College joined an 800-strong team of volunteers, The Extra Milers, to get involved and make sure the runners and spectators had the best day possible.

"Volunteers are essential in making sure major sporting events like this happen, we really couldn't do without them, and it is great to have the continued support of the college.

"The students were also integral to the success of the IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championships in March, working extremely hard to keep the 16,000 runners hydrated and supported.

"We wanted to say a huge 'thank you' to the students for their commitment and hard work."

'Water company still has work to do to cut complaints'

– SAYS CONSUMER COUNCIL

DŴR Cymru Welsh Water has more work to do to reduce the number of written complaints from its customers, says the Consumer Council for Water (CCWater).

Building on its September Complaints report, the consumer body on Tuesday published figures which show written complaints to the water company fell month-on-month between April and September 2016 – but complaints still remain 39 per cent higher when compared to the same period last year.1

Satisfaction with services and value for money among consumers in Wales remains higher than in England, but CCWater challenged Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to improve its performance on written complaints after it reported a 115 per cent rise during 2015/16.

Welsh Water responded by introducing a range of measures, including creating a dedicated team to tackle potential issues at an early stage before they escalate to a complaint.

But progress has not been as fast as CCWater would have liked so the water watchdog has urged the company to re-double its efforts or risk remaining one of the worst performing water companies in England and Wales for written complaints.

Tom Taylor, CCWater Wales chair, said: "While we recognise the company has taken steps to try and address the underlying causes, written complaints over the past six months remain higher than we would expect.

"Welsh Water has told us it expects to see complaints fall over the coming months but the company has a lot of ground to make up if it is to improve at all on last year's disappointing performance."

CCWater wrote to four water companies in Wales and England in September asking them to spell out what action they were taking to improve their complaint-handling performance. All four companies have been asked to provide CCWater with a further update in January on the progress they have made.

More support for the RNLI

ESTATE agents Herbert R Thomas have helped raise £18,500 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in tandem with Ruth Jones at a charity event at The Royal Pavilion in Porthcawl on November 18.

Ruth had the support of friends and Gavin and Stacey co-star, Rob 'Uncle Bryn' Brydon, as well as singer Bonnie Tyler and Only Men Aloud.

An auction was held, which included a wide variety of items, conducted by Andrew Thomas, senior director of Herbert R Thomas, when the total raised on the evening was £18,500.

Ruth said: "Andrew 'Gavel' Thomas. What a class act! His highly impressive auctioneering skills took the whole evening into another league, and it was his panache and persuasion that made the bids go higher and higher, raising a fabulous amount for the charity. Thanks, Andrew. You totally rock!"

Andrew said: "Herbert R Thomas was incredibly proud to be part of a superb and worthy evening. I'm very pleased that we were able to raise such a large amount for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. I would also like to thank our host for the evening, Ruth Jones, who made the night memorable for all."

Make a wish for National Trust Wales!

A child looks upon the wish tree at Dyffryn Gardens with awe and wonder and takes in the silent majesty of a winter's morn and the clean, cool chill of the holiday air.

NATIONAL Trust Wales has announced its wish list for 2017 – focusing on nature and the safe keeping of special places.

Special Christmas wish trees that the charity has installed in places they care for across Wales, are available for visitors to make their wish.

Visitors can contribute to the conservation of their special places, including vital work to the great outdoor spaces under its care.

Locally, there will be wish trees at Tredegar House and Dyffryn Gardens. Previous visitors to Dyffryn Gardens may well have noticed the empty pool at the end of the great lawn. Once a large, beautiful fountain that could be seen from the house, structural weakness of the walls and a leaky bottom has left the pool empty for ten years. The Trust wants to restore the 1900s fountain to its former glory.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionwales/christmas-in-wales.

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Bridgend's budding young engineers explore aerospace

ABOVE: Oldcastle Primary School pupils at ICAT next to BAe Jetstream T2 XX487/CU-568 of 750 Naval Air Squadron.

A GROUP of budding aircraft engineers from a Bridgend school have paid a visit to Cardiff and Vale College to see its internationally renowned aerospace facilities.

Pupils from Oldcastle Primary School visited the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT), based at Cardiff Airport in Rhoose, as part of their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) week programme.

They were given the opportunity to take off and land at the airport on flight simulators and had a full demonstration and display from flight safety officers in a Boeing 737 fuselage 'Classroom in the Sky'. The Oldcastle pupils were also given a full tour of ICAT's hangar and workshop areas to have a chance to play with the college's Bulldog and Jetstream aircraft.

"It was a great pleasure to welcome the future of the Aerospace sector to ICAT," Aircraft Engineering Lecturer Chris Pilcher said. "The students from Oldcastle school asked lots of questions and really engaged in the afternoon's activities. It was great to accommodate them and hopefully inspire the engineers and aircrew of the future."

Sisters raise £6,000 for Penarth hospice that cared for their parents

THREE sisters have joined forces to raise thousands for a Penarth hospice – after both their parents received care there.

Rachel Powell and her sisters Sally Keenan and Lisa Thomas, organised three fundraising dinner dances for the Marie Curie, Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, raising more than £6,000.

The three support the charity as their father, Lyndon 'Terry' Radford and their mother Helen Radford, of Whitchurch, Cardiff, died at the hospice in 2008 and 2014.

"We held the first dinner and dance at Spiro's, St Peter's Hall in Roath and the other two at the Cardiff Masonic Hall," said Rachel. "We had been to a similar event not long after dad passed away and thought we would be able to organise something similar to help raise money.

"We also took part in the Walk Ten for Marie Curie in Margam Park with 20 of our family and friends. Both our mum and dad were cared for at the hospice, dad in 2008 and mum in 2014.

"We found out they both had cancer when they were in hospital and dad was in the hospice for a week and mum for 10 days.

"They both passed away in the hospice, but had received such a good level of care when they were here.

"We stayed overnight towards the end, and made use of the family facilities. Coming from a hospital environment and into the hospice was just such a peaceful experience for everyone."

The trio also held a Blooming Great Tea Party as part of the charity's June campaign for the first time, and are hoping to replicate in summer 2017.

"We're glad to be able to help out people who are in the same situation as we've been in," added Rachel.

"So far, we have raised over £10,000 for Marie Curie. We're hoping to be able to do a family fun day or something similar in the future, but we will be continuing to fundraise."

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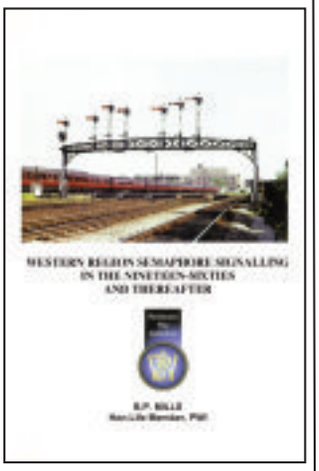

FOLLOWING a lifetime of study and photographing Western Region railway semaphore signalling, Brian Mills (the late Alf Mills' son) has published a 277-page fully colour-illustrated book (pictured above) on the subject through the Permanent Way Institution.

Containing many photos of signalling in the south Wales area and with detailed captions, a copy has been placed in the reference section of Barry Library.

Open invitation to Cowbridge fundraisers this Christmas

by SAM CORKHILL

FIVE gold rings, four calling birds, three worthy causes, two joined forces and a Christmas Shopping Breather: Cowbridge has a string of party fundraisers organised as the countdown to Christmas begins – and you're invited!

Firstly, the biannual trip to South Africa organised by Cowbridge Comprehensive has returned, where sixth-form students such as me are offered the opportunity to work with the Goedgedacht Trust for a week, experiencing the culture (and hardships) of a continent most of us have never even visited before.

In order to apply for this eye-opening opportunity, candidates had to write a letter expressing interest and sit an interview with senior members of the authority in the school.

Following this, each successful applicant was assigned the task of raising a minimum of £1,000 before the flight.

The visit consists of two weeks, one which involves climbing Table-Top Mountain, whale-watching and seeing the "Big Five", while the other is a hands-on programme with the Trust.

During the week with the Trust, our mornings will be spent on outdoor labour such as farming or fixing bikes.

Once morning school finishes, we will then be working with children under the Trust's care, be that as carers, teachers or entertainers. At the same time, this serves to continue developing the school's relations with the Trust. So why the Goedgedacht Trust?

Set up in 1992, the Trust alleviates poverty in rural areas, where the effects of such hardships are often overlooked. The flagship programme, "POP" (Path Out of Poverty), provides education in order to help youths develop, so that they can take on employment successfully as young adults.

The focal point of the Trust is its target of sustainable methods; when the support offered by the Trust for each child lasts around 20 years, the Trust needs to be as self-sufficient as possible, thus ensuring even relatively small contributions remain significant for a longer period of time.

The Trust's current project of setting up an industry in olive farming is the epitome of their focus on sustainability.

To find out more about the Goedgedacht Trust, visit their website *www.goedgedacht.org*.

Simultaneously, Jackie Thomas, a Cowbridge resident, has started raising funds for Brain Tumour Research and Y Bwthyn Newydd, the palliative care unit in Bridgend.

Y Bwthyn Newydd offers terminally ill patients dignity and comfort in the final weeks, or even months of their lives, while also providing loved ones with support.

The heart-warming ideals of this institution clearly struck a chord with Jackie, as she has been moved to organise events to raise up to £5 000 between the two charities.

When asked about her reasons for fundraising for Brain Tumour Research, Jackie explained that this particular branch only receives one per cent of all national funding for cancer research, yet brain tumours are the largest cancer killers in the under-40 age group.

The Goedgedacht Trust, Brain Tumour Research and Y Bwthyn Newydd: these are the three worthy causes mentioned in the opening line of this article.

The two joined forces are the result of an arrangement between Jackie and myself; very generously, Jackie has agreed to employ up to three students at a time as waiting staff during her events, where our earnings go towards our fundraising.

Each of these events consist of either a lunch or evening meal, hosted and cooked at Jackie's gorgeous own home.

Of the four meals, three have been fully booked.

However, the final event ('A Christmas Shopping Breather') is open and you are invited! Join us for an informal light lunch (and a glass of wine!) between 12:30pm and 6.30pm on December 10.

There will also be a raffle drawn at the end of the day.

You can buy a ticket from any of the following shops in Cowbridge: Jon Ian, Cathy Gittins or the Bay Tree.

Alternatively, you can call Jackie on 07841 594144. Please be aware that tickets are £20 and they are subject to availability, so make sure you get there before anyone else does!

In any case, we can't wait to meet you at 6 Westgate, Cowbridge on the day!

Donations are gratefully accepted, and if you feel like you can part with a fiver (or even more!) in the interest of my South Africa trip, please send a cheque made payable to Mr Samuel Corkill at the following address: Whitefields Forge, Welsh St Donats, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7SS. Apologies for the payment method- online fundraisers all want a cut!

All funds raised go towards the cost of the trip, until £2 000 have been raised. Following this, any further money raised becomes a direct donation to the Goedgedacht trust.

Join us in the festive season in supporting these three worthy causes! The current record at our school is £6,000 – perhaps you could help me give this record a run for its money?

Left to Right: Fundraising pupils Lowri, Sam, and Charlotte waiting tables at the first event on November 20.

DUO IN CONCERT FOR VELINDRE CANCER CARE

SINGER-songwriter Hank Hillman and Barry artist and musician Glyn Pooley, have been performing at 10 venues across the Vale of Glamorgan, as part of their concerts raise funds for Velindre Cancer Care 'Cahon with the Wind'.

"I congratulate Hank and Glyn for organising the concerts. They recently performed at Golau Caredig in Barry to a delighted audience," commented Vale AM Jane Hutt.

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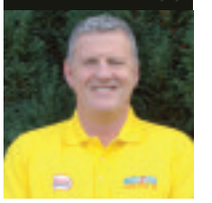

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All High Street shops are open as usual with an array of innovative gift ideas, fashion & treatments.

W.A.S. NHS Trust winter action plan

THE Welsh Ambulance Service has revealed an action plan to protect patients and 'improve staff experience' over the winter.

Locally, initiatives are being put in place, including two community paramedic trials in the Vale.

Some 20 new emergency medical technicians, 12 new paramedics and 15 new members of urgent care service crew will start work with the Trust.

An additional five 'Hear and Treat' clinicians will also be in place within Clinical Contact Centres from December to provide advice to callers who do not have serious or life threatening conditions.

Other initiatives include the training and deployment of Community First Responders to help fallers, and the placement of clinicians within police control rooms to triage calls and make sure appropriate resources are sent to the scene of incidents.

Art exhibition winners collect group's awards

IN October 2016 Cowbridge Comprehensive School held an art exhibition by its sixth form pupils at the Old Hall.

Hannah Redfern-Hughes (left), Rachel Bent (centre) and Olivia Stephens (right), with David Clough of Cowbridge Arts Group.

The standard of work was exceptionally high and in November, three winners were presented with their awards by Mr David Clough, a member of the Cowbridge Arts Group committee.

Third prize went to Olivia Stephens who is applying to university to study history of art because of her commitment to her A Level subjects – English literature, history and art.

Second prize went to Hannah Redfern-Hughes, who is exploring landscape as a theme this year and attended the Cowbridge Art Society's demonstration by Pete Monaghan (one of the inspirations for her work) and his exhibition in Cardiff.

Hannah is applying to an art foundation course before deciding her specialism at degree level.

The first prize went to Rachel Bent, who has applied to a full time dance school for the next three years because of her exceptional ability as a ballet/contemporary dancer.

The Cowbridge Arts Group organises a rolling programme of monthly exhibitions by local schools, colleges, and local south east Wales artists, photographers and crafts men and women at the Old Hall Cowbridge.

The programme is now fully booked up to March 2018, but further information can be seen on *https://www.facebook.com/OldHallGallery/* and application forms from individuals or groups who would like to exhibit there beyond that date are available from area development officer, Sally Perini at *sperini@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*. **A LLOYD**

Christmas lunch with Santa, or
a family Christmas Day lunch
at Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

Family Christmas Day Lunch

If you don't want to cook this Christmas but a restaurant environment isn't exactly what you're looking for, then why not attend a Family Christmas Day Lunch in the Castell Suite, Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

You'll choose and pre-order a delicious plated starter, followed by a sumptuous main course platter of carved turkey, roasted vegetables, roast potatoes & all the Christmas Day trimmings served to your table for you to enjoy. If you're not too full after all that, you can make the most of a selection of rich desserts to help yourself to and finally wash it all down with teas and coffee.

3 Courses - £45 per adult • £20 per child
(Booking essential)

Please call 02920 599100 to book your table.

Copthorne CARDIFF

Christmas Lunch with Santa
11th, 18th, 23rd & 24th December 12 midday - 2pm.

Menu

Starters
Roast Mediterranean Tomato Soup served with Basil Oil.

Main Course
Ballontine of Grain Fed Turkey with an Orange and Cranberry Stuffing.
Including Roast Potatoes, Parsnips, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts and Roasting Juices.

Desserts
Traditional Individual Christmas Pudding with Brandy Anglaise.

Children's Menu
Tomato Soup, Breaded Chicken Goujons Beans & Chips, Ice Cream Trio.

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Santa *(and elves)* head for hospice

SANTA will make a special visit to Penarth on Saturday (December 3), when a Christmas fayre will be held at the Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale hospice, to help raise funds for the 'Hospice Hikers'.

Four of the hospice staff – Sarah Harry, Sam Metcalfe, Lauren James and Beth Webster – are signed up to take part in the Sri Lanka trek in aid of the hospice next year and are hosting a number of events to help them fundraise.

The fete will be held from noon to 4pm at the hospice and there will be homemade cakes, stalls and a raffle – along with Christmas carols, little ones can enjoy a visit to Santa's Grotto for stories from the elves.

Entry to the fete is £1 for adults, with children admitted free; there is a £2.50 charge to enter Santa's Grotto.

Penarth Tree Festival

THE 16th Penarth Christmas Tree Festival will take place at St Augustine's church over the weekend of December 10-11.

Some 50 trees will be on display having been decorated by local individuals, businesses and charities.

The festival, featuring live music, will open at 11am and will be open for visitors until 5pm on Saturday.

On Sunday, it will be open between 12 noon and 5pm. to a full and varied programme of live music.

The proceeds from the Christmas tree festival are being divided between three charities: one local; one national; and one international.

This year's benficiaries are Kotu Trust (Gambia), Barnado's Cymru and Making Music Changing Live, which are based in the Ely area of Cardiff.

The concert commences at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (£6 for students) and may be purchased online at www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk.

It will also be posssible to purchase a ticket at the door, subject to capacity.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

Cowbridge country market

ON Friday, December 2, there will be a special Christmas event.

Taste samples of goodies and place an order for Christmas; small hampers can be ordered and a gift-wrapping service is offered.

Enjoy the new look tea room in Lesser Hall, Cowbridge from 9.30am – 11.30am. There is also a stall at the Farmers' Market on December 3.

Star Men

THE Bridgend Astronomical Society has a special meeting on December 2. *Star Men*, a full-length movie, stars four 'retired' British astronomers. Pyle church hall at 7.30pm. *All are welcome!*

History talk

THE Cowbridge History Society's next lecture of the season on Friday, December 2 in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is 'From Canton to Kensington – William Goscombe John, sculptor,' by Gwerfyl Gardner.

All welcome; wine and mince pies to follow. www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org.

Cathedral concert

WALES' contribution to testosterone-fuelled operatic singing, the Ten Welsh Tenors, are back by popular demand at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, December 3 at 7pm.

Join the 10 tenors and guests for a sumptuous feast of popular operatic delights, which will not cost you 10 tenners but two tenners!

All money raised will fund defibrillators and heart screening sessions throughout Wales. Admission £20. Contact 02922 402670.

Enfys craft fair

ON Saturday, December 3 Enfys will hold their last craft fair of 2016 at the St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry (CF62 6NX) between 10am – 4pm; free entry.

Barry branch of the NCI (National Coastwatch Institution) is the Enfys charity for December.

The next craft fair is on February 4. Contact Ken Lyons on 01446 792149 for more information.

Toys and trains

THE Bridgend Toy and Train Sale will take place on December 3 at 10am to 3pm in Bridgend Leisure Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AH.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "For some time, our traders and customers have been urging us to operate in the Brigend area and we are happy to have been able to deliver on this. Our sister shows at Cardiff and Barry are running successfully and it is hoped that Bridgend will follow suit over time."

Telephone 01643 702757, 07966 694579 or see www.chrisdyerfa.

Cowbridge craft fair

THE charity Emmaus is holding a Christmas craft fair on Sunday, December 4 at Cowbridge Town Hall (10am – 2pm).

Crafts, handmade Christmas decorations, raffle, tombola, tea and cake.

Carol service to remember loved ones

A CAROL service is being held in Llantwit Major to give relatives a special opportunity to remember loved ones they have lost.

Local funeral directors WA Brown & Son are inviting residents to attend the service at St Illtud's Church on Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm.

A spokesman explained: "It will be a time when we can think of those we have lost and share this service with other people. Coffee, tea and mince pies will be served in the church following the service.

"We are also inviting people to take a 'remembrance tag' write a message on it and hang it on our remembrance Christmas tree at the funeral home across the road on a week day leading up to Christmas.

"Any donations we receive will be divided between the Rainbows and Beavers of Llantwit Major."

Christmas craft fayre

EMMAUS South Wales hold a Christmas Craft Fayre on Sunday, December 4 at Cowbridge Town Hall from 10am-2pm.

Christmas gifts, jewellery, greetings cards, African gifts, driftwood Christmas trees, tombola, silk flower arrangements and raffle. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

For more information, call Laura on 07770 850049 or Kate on 02920 229437.

Harmony concert

THE Harmony charity Christmas concert takes place at St David's Church, Maesteg, on Friday, December 9 at 7.15pm.

Tickets (£5) now on sale from any chorister, or call Wendy Murphy on 07983 571578 (or pay on the door).

Christmas carols, sherry, mince pies and raffle in festive surroundings with many lovely decorated Christmas trees!

All proceeds will go to the choir's charity this year – Tenovus Cancer Care.

PACT meetings

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Tuesday, December 5 at 7.15pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre on Tuesday, December 5 at 7.15pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, the Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, December 8 at 6pm.

Volunteers' fair

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) will host The BIG Volunteering Fair on Wednesday, January 18 from 11am – 4pm at Barry Memorial Hall.

Go along on the day or contact GVS, 01446 741706; email enquiries@gvs.wales, or to www.gvs.wales.

Go to The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

The Hoff is hooked for Peter Pan(to)

THE New Theatre, Cardiff has announced a major casting coup for this year's forthcoming pantomime *Peter Pan*, as it has secured superstar David Hasselhoff at the helm, in the role of Captain Hoff the Hook, Neverland's ultimate bad boy.

Best known for his roles in the television programmes *Knight Rider* and *Baywatch*, and a famous cameos in the films *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story, and Ted 2* 'The Hoff' is thrilled to be returning to Cardiff.

"I love being in pantomime, it's a lot of fun and to tell the story of Peter Pan is a huge honour, especially as I made my stage debut in the show as a child. I'm particularly happy to be spending Christmas with the people of Cardiff– so watch out Wales, 'Hoff the Hook' is coming to get you!"

Joining Mr Hasselhoff will be Cardiff's much-loved dame, Mike Doyle, who will star as Mrs Smee. *Peter Pan* marks his fourth consecutive panto appearance at the New Theatre, a venue he has appeared at many times during his 26-year panto career.

Following last year's critically acclaimed appearance as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, Mr Doyle will bring his array of comedy, costumes and audience participation to the high seas this Christmas.

Executive producer of *Peter Pan*, Jonathan Kiley, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing the legendary Hoff to the New Theatre this pantomime season. Both David and Mike are true showmen and panto naturals and will bring a wealth of stage experience to the production. They will be joined by a fabulous supporting cast in a show full of top-drawer production values, stunning scenery, special effects and spectacular costumes. Peter Pan will be an unmissable theatrical event in Cardiff this festive season".

New Theatre general manager, Grant McFarlane, commented: "Once again, Cardiff will be presenting Wales' biggest pantomime. The combination of The Hoff and Mike Doyle has all of the theatre staff on tenterhooks, and we cannot wait to share the show with everyone."

Audiences can expect to take a fairytale flight to Neverland this Christmas in the swashbuckling family adventure full of evil pirates, the Lost Boys, a very hungry crocodile and the meanest man in Neverland, Captain Hook.

The Peter Pan panto plays from December 10 to January 8.

Community choir on festive form!

CELEBRATE Christmas with the Barry Community Choir, which will be singing Christmas songs and carols old and new, with festive nibbles after the concert on December 10.

Children are welcome, and there's no charge for them up to the age of 16. Emma Arscott and Sian Davies will be playing piano duets during the concert,

So put 3pm on Saturday, December 10 at Crossways Church, Barry, in your diary! Contact the choir via Facebook, website (www.barrycommunitychoir.com) or call 01446 748724.

Popping up and at home in Cowbridge!

IN response to a reported exc-ellent reception at their September pop-up, The Vintage HQ, specialist retailer, valuer and purchaser of all things vintage, will call Cowbridge their home for winter 2016.

For five weeks until Sunday, January 8 the vintage experts are at 23b High Street, Cowbridge and are, once again, stocking true vintage clothing, accessories, furniture and collectables – including exceptional vintage mink, sable and fox fur garments.

In addition to offering a private valuation and purchase service – for vintage fur, clothing, heirlooms, antiques and collectable – The Vintage HQ can now boast the title of south Wales' only fur remodelling and furrier service.

Joining the team at 23b High Street are Sloane Home (crafter of hand-poured Welsh-made candles and delicious spirits), Alexandra Rose (quirky but tasteful taxidermy artist) and Ffwr (professional crafter of natural wool and fur accessories) making 23b the one-stop-shop for Christmas 2017!

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LIGHT A CANDLE AND WEAR A WHITE RIBBON

– for an end to domestic violence against women

LAST WEEK we marked the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with a cross-party gathering, a candlelit vigil at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, and a service at Llandaff Cathedral.

In plenary, we were reminded by Joyce Watson AM, who started the White Ribbon campaign in Wales over a decade ago, of the origins of the campaign. In 1991, the first White Ribbon campaign was launched by a group of men in Canada after the brutal mass shooting of 14 female students at the University of Montreal.

Since 2012, Joyce has worked with the National Federation of Women's Institutes in Wales to develop the 'Not in My Name' campaign. This engages with men to support the White Ribbon campaign, and has been taken up by local authorities, emergency services, trade unions, farming bodies, workplaces, sports bodies, male voice choirs, schools and colleges.

The Welsh Government statement in plenary was made by Carl Sargeant AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, and he also spoke in Llandaff Cathedral alongside victims of violence and representatives of different faiths – Buddist, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim.

At the cathedral, I sat by the Mayor of Cardiff, Coun Monica Walsh and we shared memories of the first Women's Aid refuge in Wales, which I helped to establish – with the support of the Lord Mayor at the time, Coun Albert Huish.

We remembered those days when we were campaigning hard to get the issue of domestic violence recognised by local authorities, the police, the courts and by society. We both said this had been a motivating force for us to get involved in politics – to try and influence those who were in power.

On Friday, we were reminded again of the statistics which reveal that in Wales over 47,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police in 2014/15 and in the UK. In a street made up of 100 houses, 20 of the women on the street will have been a victim of a sexual offence.

The Mayor of Cardiff and I have key positions of responsibility in Wales and we pledged ourselves again on Friday, as members of the congregation in a packed cathedral, to continue to work towards the elimination of violence against women – not just on White Ribbon Day, but every day.

My long-standing support for Atal y Fro in the Vale of Glamorgan, which provides refuge, support, second stage housing and preventative action, enables me to help initiatives in my constituency as well as at Government level as the cabinet minister responsible for Welsh Government business and as Leader of the House. (Atal Y Fro can be contacted at 01446 744755 and by emailing info@atalyfro.org.)

The White Ribbon which we wore last week is a symbol of hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence. Thank you to BAWSO, Welsh Women's Aid, Llamau, New Pathways, Safer Wales, Unite, WCIA and Llandaff Cathedral for marking the White Ribbon Day in such a powerful way.

Finally, on Friday afternoon I was also delighted to open Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement plant new rail facility, which will ensure that 2,500 truck movements will be removed from our roads each year, as the company delivers on its pledge to support sustainable delivery of materials and cut transport CO2.

I climbed aboard the freight train, which is now connected to the main Vale line and taking trucks by rail to Westbury and Cornwall. These would have been previously transported by road.

This was a wonderful experience and I congratulate Aberthaw Cement plant for investing in its infrastructure in this way to substantially benefit local people, communities, the economy and the environment.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT
(Leader of the House)

Brave Carolyn wins a prestigious caring award

A WOMAN who took a chance when she spotted a job advert has reaped the benefit by receiving a prestigious award.

Brave mum Carolyn Hall who has battled against Crohn's Disease, was among those honoured at a ceremony at City Hall, Cardiff. MC was opera singer Wynne Evans, aka as Gio Compario from the Go Compare TV adverts..

She was among the winners at this year's Wales Care Awards organised by Care Forum Wales to recognise good practice in the sector.

The 48-year-old mother of one received a bronze award in the category for Supported Living or Small Group Community Living Practitioner.

Carolyn was looking for something to fill her time when she spotted the advert for a domiciliary care worker by the Barry-based company All Care South Wales Limited.

"I didn't really think it was going to be for me, but I thought I'd give it a go," she explained.

She was nominated for the award by her line manager Ceri Anne Gratton, who commented: "Carolyn has a holistic approach to her work and communicates simple ideas to her supervisors to enable care packages to run smoothly.

"Her work with individuals suffering with dementia has been exceptional and the praise she has received has proved her commitment and passion for her role."

Carolyn Hall with her award.

Vale AM lends support to HIV Testing Week

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, last week backed HIV Testing Week by encouraging local people to get tested.

She joined Terrence Higgins Trust at the Assembly calling for people to help stop HIV transmission in Wales by taking a free, fast and confidential test.

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Rhagfyr 2016

NADOLIG LLAWEN I HOLL DDARLLENWYR Y GEM

ARIES: Mae teithio ar y cardiau Aries, a pha adeg gwell i fynd ar wyliau ond adeg y Nadolig, pan fo pob man yn dathlu? Mae'r byd a'i wraig yn mynd yn yr haf. Ewch a mwynhewch! Os nad yw hynny'n bosib falle y bydd rhywun yn teithio o bellafoedd daear i ymweld â chi. Beth bynnag ddaw, ry'ch chi'n siwr o gael Nadolig wrth eich bodd.

TAURUS: Dych chi ddim yn debygol o gael problemau ariannol y Rhagfyr hwn, felly mwynhewch eich cyfoeth tra paro, gan fod dyddiau llwm yn debygol o ddod ar ôl y Nadolig (gormod o wario gwirion ar yr Wyl falle?). Nawr yw'r amser felly i roi cíldwrn yn y cadw-mi-gei ar gyfer diwrnod glawog.

GEMINI: Mae na fil eitha sylweddol ar ei ffordd - gobeithio fod gyda chi ddigon ar ei gyfer! Mae hwn yn gyfnod ardderchog i wneud gwaith ar y ty, paentio, papuro, adeiladu, garddio - felly mwynhewch! Os oes raid i chi symud ty ceisiwch ei ohirio tan y flwyddyn newydd, i osgoi unrhyw siom a allai ddigwydd.

CANCER: Rydych chi fel rheol yn ofalus rhag gwneud newidiadau mawr yn eich bywyd, ond mae'r ser o'ch plaid ar hyn o bryd, ac yn barod i'ch helpu i wneud newidiadau cyffrous iawn. Ond mae'n bosib na fydd y teulu yn cytuno - felly byddwch yn amyneddgar, a gwrandewch ar eu hochr hwy cyn penderfynu.

LEO: Mae hwn yn addo bod yn aeaf rhamantus iawn, ac fe allai hynny'ch arwain i ymddwyn yn fyrbwyll braidd. Da chi triwch beidio â gorwario dros gyfnod y Nadolig, a pheidio prynnu dim byd drud heb ysyried, achos mi fyddwch yn siwr o ddifaru'ch enaid pan ddaw biliau'r flwyddyn newydd.

VIRGO: Mae cyfnod creadigol iawn o'ch blaen. Mae gyda chi lawer mwy o hyder yn eich gallu ar hyn o bryd, ac fe gewch gyfle cyn bo hir i synnu sawl person dylanwadol gyda'ch talent. Mae eich sefyllfa ariannol braidd yn ansefydlog, ond fe ddylai swm sylweddol sy'n ddyledus i chi gyrraedd cyn y Nadolig.

LIBRA: Mae'r sefyllfa gartre yn dueddol o fod braidd yn ansefydlog ar hyn o bryd - falle eich bod yn bwriadu symud ty ac wedi cael eich siomi, ond na phoenwch - siom dros dro fydd hi; ac erbyn canol Rhagfyr fe ddylech gael newyddion i godi'r galon. Mae perthynas agos yn debygol o fod yn ddraenen yn eich ystlys.

SCORPIO: Triwch gadw'ch trwyn yn lân a chadw draw oddi wrth unrhyw broblemau cytundebol neu gyfreithiol. Peidiwch ag arwyddo unrhyw ddogfen swyddogol, os na fydd raid, o leiaf tan yr ail wythnos yn Ionawr. Mae rhywun yn y gwaith yn mynd i'ch helpu mewn ffordd ymarferol iawn. Ac fe ddylech gael Nadolig wrth eich bodd.

SAGITTARIUS: Mae hwn yn debygol o fod yn gyfnod prysur iawn; o'r braidd bydd eich traed yn cyffwrdd â'r llawr. Mae'n bwysig felly eich bod yn cymryd gofal o'ch iechyd, a gofalu eich bod yn cael digon o gwsg - felly llai o bartïon!. Rydych chi'n tueddu i anwybyddu'ch corff hyd nes iddo dynnu sylw at ei hun.

CAPRICORN: Mi fydd hwn yn Ragfyr eitha difrifol. Mae cyfnod o waith caled o'ch blaen; gwaith ymenyddol, a llawer o ddysgu ac astudio. Mi fyddwch wrth eich bodd wrthgwrs, does dim yn eich plesio'n fwy na chael cyfle i ddarllen ac ymchwilio; ond cofiwch beidio ag esgeuluso dathliadau'r Nadolig yn eich brwdfrydedd.

AQUARIUS: Mae hi'n gyfnod ffafriol iawn i faterion y galon ar hyn o bryd. Cofiwch beidio â rhuthro'r sefyllfa chwaith, a gofalwch beidio â llosgi'ch bysedd trwy fod yn rhy feiddgar. Fe allech gael eich brifo'n ddwfn iawn, neu frifo rywun arall. Mae rhywun yn mynd i roi anrheg mawr drud i chi fydd braidd yn embarasing.

PISCES: Byddwch yn amnyeddgar a daliwch eich tafod y Rhagfyr hwn, gan fod cweryla yn yr awyr yn enwedig o gwmpas cyfnod y Nadolig, a hynny gydag aelod hyn o'r teulu. A rwy'n ofni mai chi fydd yn gyfrifol am ddechrau'r cweryl. Rhaid ystyried a chofio nad yw pawb yn gweld pethau yr un ffordd â chi.

EIRY PALFREY

Ffilm Nadolig hudolus: Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs

Ffrindiau dychmygol, caneuon cofiadwy a dathliadau'r Nadolig - cyfuniad hudolus ar gyfer ffilm newydd sbon, Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs..

Seren y ffilm yw Noa, bachgen 7 mlwydd oed, a'i deulu prysur. Mae mam a dad wastad yn gweithio, ond dydy hynny'n poeni dim ar Noa am fod ganddo gwmni ei gyfaill pennaf, ei ffrind dychmygol Albi.

Wrth wylio hynt a helynt y ddau gyfaill hoffus ar ddydd Nadolig ar S4C, bydd eich teulu cyfan yn canu, mwynhau a chwerthin yn eu cwmni.

Y cerddorion Caryl Parry Jones a Non Parry sydd wedi creu'r ffilm, a Caryl sydd wedi cyfansoddi pob cân... felly, pwy well na Caryl i esbonio mwy am fyd Albi a Noa?:

Disgrifiwch y ffilm i ni mewn 3 gair.

Cynnes, cyffrous, emosiynol.

Beth wnaethoch chi ei fwynhau orau am ysgrifennu Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs?

Dwi a Non wrth ein boddau efo ffilmiau teuluol, cynnes, Nadoligaidd beth bynnag, felly roedd creu un ein hunain yn fraint. Creu'r cymeriadau ydy'r darn anoddaf a'r dasg sy'n rhoi'r mwyaf o bleser.

Pam dewis creu ffilm am fachgen bach a'i ffrind dychmygol?

Mae rhywbeth sydd gan y ddwy ohonom ni ddiddordeb ynddo fo. Mae pŵer y dychymyg mor bwysig ac yn ein barn ni mae o'n rhywbeth y dylid ei annog a'i barchu yn enwedig mewn plant.

Mae eich ffilm 'Y Dyn Nath Ddwyn y 'Dolig', wedi hudo cenedlaethau o blant ers yr '80au. Sut mae Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs yn cymharu â'r ffilm honno?

Calon ydy'r peth pwysig yn y ddwy ffilm. Mae 30 mlynedd wedi pasio ers 'Y Dyn Nath Ddwyn y 'Dolig' felly dwi'n gobeithio 'mod i wedi dysgu lot yn y cyfamser!

Rydych chi a Non Williams wedi cydweithio o'r blaen ar ysgrifennu'r gyfres Anita. Beth yw cyfrinach eich partneriaeth?

Mae'r bartneriaeth rhyngddo i a Non yn gweithio'n grêt. Mae Anita'n gyfres ac Albi a Noa yn ffilm ac mae 'na wahanol 'reolau' yn perthyn i'r ddau beth. Ond mae Non a fi yn rhannu'r un hiwmor felly yn gyffredinol, 'dan ni'n cael lot o hwyl... a bwyd.

Un o le ydych chi, a beth yw'r atgof orau sy' gennych chi o'r Nadolig yno?

O Ffynnongroyw, Sir y Fflint. Roedd Mam yn wych am drefnu'r Nadolig i ni ac roedd cyngerdd yr ysgol a Drama'r Geni yng Nghapel Bethania wastad yn uchafbwyntiau.

Mae'r Nadolig ar fin cyrraedd - beth yw'r traddodiadau Nadolig yn eich teulu chi?

Addurno, bwyta, llwyth o anrhegion, gwylio ffilmiau Nadolig yn ddi-dor, gwylio rhaglenni coginio Nadoligaidd... Ambell flwyddyn, 'dan ni'n cynnal cyngerdd Nadolig fel teulu, ond fyddwn ni ddim eleni gan fod fy merch hynaf, Elan, yn dathlu pen-blwydd pwysig ar Noswyl Nadolig.

Rydych chi nawr yn byw yn y Bont-faen. Ydy'r traddodiadau Nadolig yn wahanol i'r rhai yn Ffynnongroyw?

Fe allwn i fod yn byw yn y Maldives a byddai'n Nadolig ni'n union yr un peth! Mae'n rhywbeth sy'n cael ei basio o un genhedlaeth i'r llall dwi'n meddwl.

Beth yw'r anrheg waethaf rydych chi erioed wedi'i rhoi i rywun?

Roedd fy mab wedi cael anrheg gan Siôn Corn mewn rhyw barti ac mewn panig, am fy mod i wedi anghofio, mi ail-lapiais yr anrheg a'i rhoi i'w ffrind, gan anghofio ei fod o hefyd wedi bod i'r un parti ac wedi cael yr un anrheg gan Siôn Corn!

Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs

Dydd Nadolig, 25 Rhagfyr 7.30

Isdeitlau Saesneg ar gael

Ar alw: s4c.cymru; BBC iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill

Cynhyrchiad Boom Cymru ar gyfer S4C.

MERCHED Y WAWR

Mi fydd Merched y Wawr, y Barri yn cyfarfod am 2.15 ar brynhawn Llun 5 Rhagfyr yn nhŷ bwyta Foxy's ym Mhenarth. Mi fydd y Parchedig Kevin Davies yno i'n diddori gydag ychydig o drefnu ar gyfer y Nadolig!

Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Heulwen Cooper: heulwen@ntlworld.com

Mynd am Dro i Fro...

gyda Dailingual

A hithau yn prysur lithro i ddiwedd y flwyddyn, gall fod yn amser i gnoi cil ar yr hyn sydd wedi mynd rhagddi. Dyma felly gipolwg ar rai o uchafbwyntiau'r golofn hon..

Y Bontfaen

Yn ogystal â honni taw taw enw gwreiddiol y Bontfaen oedd "Y Dref Hir yn y Waun" meddai C.J. Evans taw hanfod yr enw modern yw'r hanesyn lleol:

fe gafodd buwch a oedd yn cael ei ddilyn gan gŵn ar garlam ei dal yn y bont garreg; stori sydd yn gwneud synnwyr mewn mwy nag un ystyr efallai – gwelwn felly fod y fersiwn Cymraeg yn deillio o fwy nag un tarddiad:

• Pont carreg neu faen

• Pont nad sydd yn lydan – sy'n fain felly

Ffontygari:

Ceir sôn gan Howard Jones taw 'font' yr un modd â'r iaith fain sydd yma; sef ffynhonnell o ddŵr.

Carai Jones i chi wybod hefyd bod "carrai" yn golygu darn o ledr tenau i wisgo, clymu neu i chwipio – a oedd buchod y fro angen eu chwipio ar y caeau wrth dynnu aradr efallai?

Llarnog

Trown at waith yr Athro Gwynedd O. Pierce i ddatgelu hanes llwynogod Larnog - teimla mai enw cyntefig o'r Hen Saesneg yw 'Lawerce' [yr ehedydd neu 'lark'] + 'Knock' [bryncyn]. Bryn yr ehedydd felly yw'r Llarnog yn ôl O!

Sili

Fy nheimlad / damcaniaeth i oedd mai Si y Lli oedd yma ond, wedi gofyn i Gymry Cymraeg y pentref mae'n llawer yn fwy tebyg mae Abersili oedd enw'r pentref, a hynny'n deillio nid o enw afon ond yn hytrach Sant Tysiliog.

Pe bai eich grŵp cymunedol Cymraeg angen cymorth i ddechrau neu hybu prosiect yn ymwneud â'r iaith Gymraeg, mae Cynghrair Cymunedau Cymraeg yn edrych am grwpiau cymunedol i gefnogi gyda'u prosiect newydd "Un Wlad, Dwy iaith" sydd wedi ei ariannu gan Gronfa Loteri Cymru trwy Arian i Bawb. Cysylltwch!: David Wyn, Cynghrair Cymunedau Cymraeg, 16 Lewis Rd, Llandochau Fach, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg

'White Ribbon' flag raised

THE Llynfi Valley 20 project, coordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, is supporting awareness of the White Ribbon campaign against domestic abuse, between November 25 – December 10.

It is asking people, clubs, organisations and businesses throughout the Llynfi Valley and Bridgend county borough to "speak out" and play their part in standing up to condemn domestic violence.

A White Ribbon flag was raised above Maesteg Town Council and the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Jen Terry, said: "Maesteg Town Council is proud to fully support the White Ribbon initiative."

The flag raising was also attended by Chris Elmore, MP for Ogmore, Couns Ceri Reeves and Phil John, Angharad Williams from Calan DVS, and Joanne Maksymuik-King from BAVO.

Coun Reeves said: "It was excellent to see the White Ribbon flag flying in Maesteg for the first year, this year. This demonstrates commitment to speak up and stand out against domestic violence.

"Every act of violence is wrong and everyone, whether male or female, has the right to a life free of violence."

Mr Elmore said: "I'm incredibly proud to support the White Ribbon campaign and witness the white flag being raised above Maesteg Town Council. The international day for the elimination of violence against women and girls is an important reminder that violence still takes place and that in some countries it still isn't illegal.

"It's vital that people across the UK, and internationally, take a stand today and every day to show that violence of any kind is unacceptable in a modern society."

Conservative leader calls for Vale rail line upgrade

ACTION must be taken to address problems of overcrowding on train services in the Vale, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies said this week.

"The Vale of Glamorgan Line is currently served by four trains an hour in each direction – with three to and from Barry Island and one instead going on to Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Bridgend. Passengers feel that the capacity on the line is not enough, with many having to stand, especially during peak hours," the Welsh Conservative leader stated.

"There have also been calls for services to run more frequently, with residents of Rhoose and Llantwit Major being restricted by the fact they are only served by one train an hour. This means many find themselves waiting around when they get to their destination."

Following a question from Mr Davies in the Welsh Assembly, the cabinet secretary for economy and infrastructure, Ken Skates, had confirmed that the Cardiff area signalling renewal scheme will enable more train services to operate on the line and he had held discussions regarding the availability of additional rolling stock.

Mr Davies said he welcomed this announcement, but that it would not amount to anything if it was not used as a springboard to improve comfort and convenience for passengers. The Welsh rail franchise, currently up for renewal, created an opportunity to deliver such improvements and it was vital this was taken.

This week, it had been suggested that old rolling stock from the Gatwick Express service could be leased to Arriva Trains Wales for use on West Wales to Manchester services. Mr Davies said this presented an opportunity for other stock to be used instead on the Vale line.

Mr Davies said: "Passengers from Llantwit Major, Rhoose, Barry and Dinas Powys regularly get in touch with me about problems with local rail services – especially relating to overcrowding and service frequency.

"I welcome the fact that the Signalling Renewal Scheme will enable more services to operate on the line, but we must make the most of this opportunity."

From homeless hounds to performing pooches

DOGS Trust Bridgend is searching for homes for four hounds who have turned out to be star performers to rival TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

Craig Revel 'Paw-wood', Len 'Goodboy', Darcey 'Bushy Tail' and 'Bono Tail-ioli,' will, staff hope, dazzle potential new owners.

Angela Wetherall, rehoming centre manager, said: "The Strictly dogs are an adorable bunch and definitely get top marks from us!"

She lists: Elvis (AKA Craig Revel 'Paw-wood'), a 15-month-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier with a lot of love to give! He is deaf but has been taught sign language previously. He will need experienced owners and who can continue with his reward-based training.

Elvis doesn't like to be left alone for long hours, so would prefer a home with someone who is around most of the day.

Greyhound Desmond (AKA Len 'Gooddog') is a sweet, laid back boy who enjoys a good run around, then loves to curl up and relax. Desmond loves a fuss and enjoys playing with dogs his own size. Desmond is happy to be left for a few hours at a time and could live with children aged 4 years old and above.

Poodle cross Chocco (AKA Darcey 'Bushey Tail') is a lively, fun loving character who loves to play with his toys. Once he gets to know you he's a very affectionate dog.

Terrier cross Rio (AKA 'Boneo Tail-ioli') is a nervous boy but loves his walks in the park and the beach. He is looking for a new owner who has owned dogs before and who will be around for most of the day.

Call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 0300 3030292 or visit dogstrust.org.uk.

CHURCHES PRAY FOR REFUGEES

ON November 14, more than 40 Porthcawl parishioners held a special service to pray for refugees fleeing their homes due to war, poverty and even 'climate change'.

Christians from six different churches in Porthcawl gathered for the service, which took place in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic church.

The service was organised by Deacon Robert Coyne, alongside parish volunteer Jenny Worthington. Parishioners from a variety of different Christian backgrounds came together to offer prayers, make readings and 'share the experiences of refugees'. Money was collected for CAFOD, the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, whose partners are working with people arriving in southern Europe.

The Welsh Ministers (Crichel Down) Considerations,
No's 2, 4 & 6 Bingle Lane, St Athan CF62 4LH
No's 1 & 2 Beggars Pound, St Athan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, St Athan CF62 4LH

The Welsh Ministers ("The Seller")
The following properties in St Athan "the Land"

DISPOSAL OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:
2 Bingle Lane, 4 Bingle Lane & 6 Bingle Lane.
1 Beggars Pound & 2 Beggars Pound.
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road.

The property forming part of the Welsh Government Residential portfolio at St Athan.

The properties have been declared surplus to requirements by the Seller and are being put forward for disposal. The Crichel Down Rules require Government Departments under certain circumstances to offer back surplus land to the former owner or successor in title or sitting tenant for sale at market value.

Former owners or their successors in title (or in priority to them, certain eligible residential sitting tenants with long term security of tenure) may be entitled to purchase the land formerly in their ownership (or in the case of sitting tenants, comprising their dwelling) at current market value subject to certain exceptions set out in the Rules which may be of application. If these exceptions were to be applied then there would be no entitlement to purchase any such land.

Assured Shorthold Tenants do not qualify as a sitting tenant for these purposes.

Should you consider that you are so entitled by reason of you being the former owner, their successor in title or a sitting tenant, and wish to purchase at current market value the land formerly in your ownership / the land comprising your dwelling, then please respond to this advertisement in writing within two months of the date of its publication indicating your intention to do so. If no such intentions to purchase which qualify under the Rules in these circumstances are received then it is the Seller's intention to sell the Land at the expiry of the two month period.

Please note that any entitlement of former owners or sitting tenants would be subordinate to and supplanted by the rights of any qualifying tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987.

Former owners or their successors in title or sitting tenants responding to this advertisement should do so in person or through their solicitors or agents by writing to:

Anne Lawley, Project Support Executive, Welsh Government,
Marketing Suite Building 271a, Aerospace Business Park,
St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 4LZ.
Telephone: (01446) 753030 Email: anne.lawley@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Former owners, their successors in title or sitting tenants contacting the Seller should set out the asis for their claim that they are a former owner, successor in title or sitting tenant.

Ystyriaethau Gweinidogion Cymru (Crichel Down),
Rhifau 2, 4 a 6 Bingle Lane, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH
Rhifau 1 a 2 Beggars Pound, Sain Tathan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH

Gweinidogion Cymru ("Y Gwerthwr")
Yr eiddo canlynol yn Sain Tathan "y Tir"

GWAREDU'R EIDDO CANLYNOL:
2 Bingle Lane, 4 Bingle Lane a 6 Bingle Lane.
1 Beggars Pound a 2 Beggars Pound.
The Bungalow , Cowbridge Road.

Yr eiddo sy'n ffurfio rhan o bortffolio Preswyl Llywodraeth Cymru yn Sain Tathan.

Nid oes angen yr eiddo a enwir uchod bellach ar y Gwerthwr ac mae'r 5 eiddo yn cael eu cyflwyno i'w gwaredu. Mae Rheolau Crichel Down yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Adrannau'r Llywodraeth, o dan amgylchiadau penodol, gynnig tir nad oes ei angen yn ôl i'r cyn-berchennog, yr olynydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol i'w werthu iddynt am werth y farchnad.

Gall cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl (neu mewn blaenoriaeth iddynt, denantiaid cyfredol preswyl cymwys penodol sydd â sicrwydd hirdymor o ddeiliadaeth) fod â hawl i brynu'r tir a fu yn eu meddiant (neu yn achos tenant cyfredol, sy'n cynnwys ei annedd) am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad yn amodol ar eithriadau penodol a nodwyd yn y Rheolau y gall gael eu cymhwyso. Pe byddai'r eithriadau hyn yn cael eu rhoi ar waith, ni fyddai unrhyw hawl i brynu unrhyw dir o'r fath.

Nid yw tenantiaid byrddaliol sicr yn gymwys fel tenant cyfredol at y dibenion hyn.

Os ydych yn ystyried bod gennych yr hawl oherwydd mai chi yw'r cyn-berchennog, ei olynydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol, a'ch bod yn dymuno prynu'r tir a fu'n eiddo i chi / y tir sy'n cynnwys eich annedd am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad, ymatebwch yn ysgrifenedig i'r hysbyseb hon o fewn deufis o'r dyddiad cyhoeddi yn nodi eich bwriad i wneud hynny. Os na cheir bwriadau o'r fath i brynu sy'n gymwys o dan y Rheolau yn yr amgylchiadau hyn, yna bwriad y Gwerthwr yw gwerthu'r Tir ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwn.

Noder y byddai unrhyw hawl cyn-berchenogion neu denantiaid cyfredol yn israddol ac yn ddarostyngedig i hawliau unrhyw denantiaid cymwys o dan Ddeddf Landlord a Thenant 1987.

Dylai cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n ymateb i'r hysbyseb hon wneud hynny yn bersonol neu drwy eu cyfreithwyr neu eu hasiantiaid drwy ysgrifennu at:

Anne Lawley, Swyddog Gweithredol Cymorth Prosiectau,
Llywodraeth Cymru, Adeilad Ystafell Farchnata 271a,
Parc Busnes Aerospace, Sain Tathan, Bro Morgannwg CF62 4LZ.
Ffôn: (01446) 753030 e-bost: anne.jones@cymru.gsi.gov.uk

Dylai cyn-berchenogion, eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n cysylltu â'r Gwerthwr nodi sail eu hawl, sef eu bod yn gyn-berchennog, yn olynydd mewn teitl neu'n denant cyfredol.

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ASQUITH RESIGNS AND LLOYD GEORGE FORMS A WARTIME COALITION CABINET

PORTHCAWL AT WAR: December 1916

ON December 7 following Herbert Asquith's resignation, David Lloyd George became Prime Minister and by December 11 had formed his coalition Cabinet.

One increasing concern facing the country was the growing shortage of certain foodstuffs and their increase in price, as a consequence. Food shortages were becoming prevalent. Agricultural produce was less, due to many men from the farming industry having joined the armed services, and the poor wheat harvest of 1916 made bread difficult to obtain.

In some parts of the country, the potato crop failed. Therefore, the office of the Ministry for Food was formed. Lord Devonport was appointed its first minister which would prove not before time – as the situation deteriorated, in January 1917, as a result of the German government announcing unrestricted submarine warfare.

This meant that British merchant ships transporting food from overseas would be at risk of being sunk, worsening the shortages. Tragically, three Porthcawlians serving in the Mercantile Marine would lose their lives as a result of the U Boat attacks in 1917 – Chief Officer Angus Grant, Mate Richard Power and Engineer Officer William Lewis. Their stories will be told next year.

In Porthcawl that December, possibly as a result of specific food shortages, three local ploughmen, two farmers and a market gardener who applied for exemption to the town tribunal were given conditional exemption.

However, the dearth of wheat may be why a baker's application was denied. Bread was in such short supply that advice was given nationally on how to make bread out of turnips!

A Porthcawl baker who had already enlisted and had seen action at the Somme was Albert Pothecary, whose parents ran the New Inn, South Road (Sea Horse today). Mr and Mrs John Pothecary took great pride in their three sons who had all joined up voluntarily.

However, by December 1916 the eldest, Private John Osman Pothecary, 14th Welsh, had been brought home with a fever and the baker Private Albert Austin Pothecary, also 14th Welsh, had been wounded in the back and was invalided home.

Albert was not to return to the front, due to his severe injuries and finally received a Silver Badge in August 1917, two months before he was married to a Miss Hayes in Bridgend.

The third son, Private William Spurgeon Pothecary, was serving in France as a driver with the Royal Army Medical Corps. It is testament to the patriotism of this family when you read that even John Sr joined the local Volunteer Training Corps. Thankfully all three sons survived the war.

John Osman and his wife, Mary Jane, took over the New Inn public house from his parents in c1926; but sadly John died in 1940.

Albert worked for a short time as a cleaner at Porthcawl railway station, before transferring to cleaning carriages on GWR trains. Evidence suggests that Albert died in Staffordshire in 1963.

William, having aso worked for the GWR at Cardiff eventually emigrated with his wife Mabel to America on July 25, 1924, having bought their tickets to travel on the *SS Montrose* from George Sibbering, Well Street, Porthcawl. William and Mabel became American citizens in 1928.

In 1943 William, who was 48 years old by then, was drafted by the US Army for service at home. He died in 1977 at his home in Brooklyn, New York.

Another Porthcawlian who was in hospital in 'Blighty' at the Western Hospital, Alexandra Park, Stockport was Private Waldo Emerson Parry, Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport who lived at Maesygraig, Newton, next door to Hope Chapel. Waldo, the only son of four children, was born to William and Sarah Parry in 1896, Wick. By 1901 the family had moved to Porthcawl.

Is it a coincidence that his father, who was a retired Unitarian minister, named his son after American Ralph Waldo Emerson, the essayist and lecturer who led the transcendentalist movement in 19th century America, which arose out of the doctrine of the Unitarian church as taught at Harvard Divinity School?

The transcendentalists believed that people are at their best when truly 'self-reliant' and independent. Therefore, although William is recorded as running a newsagent on New Road, research proves that, actually, it was his daughter Enid, who owned the newsagent known as The Emporium, New Road (end house on Mackworth Road). This possibly suggests that in 1916, it was still not considered 'seemly' in Porthcawl for a woman to be the proprietor of a business.

Waldo's occupation is initially reported as being a newsagent's assistant; but by the time he enlists in the Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport Regiment at Cardiff, on November 6, 1915 he gives his profession as a 'motor driver.' Following his convalescence, Private Parry eventually returns to the Western Front, France on February 2, 1917.

After the war he becomes an accountant and marries Mary Phillips in 1928. In 1977, he is found living at 22, Danygraig Avenue where he dies on April 21, 1975 aged 78 years old.

The Porthcawl News December 1916 carried news of another Porthcawlian: Trooper Ernest Davis. Trooper Davis was reported as being at a base hospital in France, having been severely wounded in the head, on October 18 during the Somme campaign.

Trooper Davis of 17 Philadelphia Road had enlisted in the Glamorgan Yeomanry, but at the time of his injury was attached to the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. He had served in Ireland during the Easter Rising in April 1916 before being posted to France in the September.

Prior to joining up, Private Davis had worked as a gardener to a Mr JP Leat, South Road. On May 30, 1917, Ernest would, sadly, die of his wounds at the Howard Gardens Military Hospital, Cardiff and was buried in St John's churchyard, Newton.

Ernest was 22 years old. His parents, William and Annie Davis, led the mourners at the funeral who included Mr William and Mrs Elizabeth Walker, and their son William from Treherbert, Rhondda.

Elizabeth was the sister of Ernest's mother Annie: maiden name Gough. Elizabeth is the great grandmother of the writer. Her son William Walker, and his wife Annie, my grandparents, would later move to 17 Northways, Porthcawl in 1937; and through his love and ability at lawn green bowls, 'Billy' Walker would eventually become the chairman and, later, president of the Griffin Park Bowls Club.

Finally, December would prove a very harsh winter both home and abroad, yet the wives and mothers of Porthcawl servicemen were treated to a 'Merry Christmas' through the generosity of Mr TG Jones of 'Beach House,' Mackworth Road; ex-chairman of the Porthcawl Council.

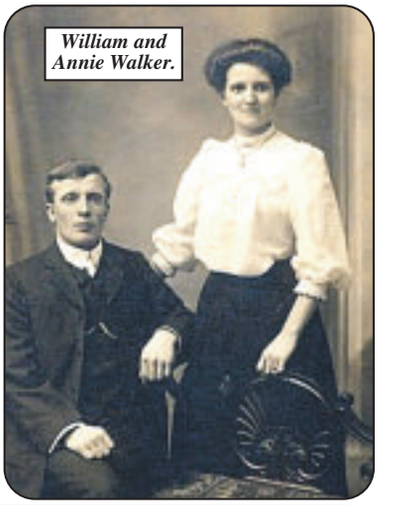
On Christmas morning, while Mrs TG Jones distributed joints of Christmas beef to their homes, "a gentleman dressed as Father Christmas went round Porthcawl, in a motor-car, distributing clothing, toys, nuts and oranges to soldiers' children."(Glamorgan Gazette December 29, 1916.)

Who was this Santa? Whoever he may have been, such kindness certainly helped to brighten the lives of soldiers' families; if only for a short time.

The town would suffer many more casualties in 1917.

CERI JOSEPH

Trooper Ernest Davies.



William and Annie Walker.

Maes y Graig, next door to Hope Chapel.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
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CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709756
Email: ambailey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno dogfennau tendro cyflawn yw 12 Hanner Dydd, ddydd Gwener 30 Rhagfyr 2016.

Cysylltu:
Angela Bailey
Adran Ystadau
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swyddfeydd Cinesig
Heol Holton
Y Barri
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Saturday 3rd December, 2016

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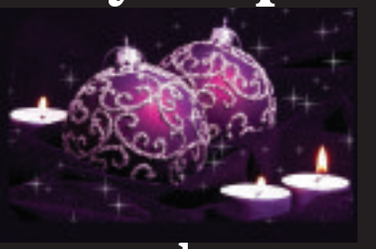

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

FROM 'ROOFTOP ATELIER' TO BARRY'S DEL BOY, CADOXTON'S NICHE BUSINESSES HAVE IT ALL!

NICHE businesses, filling a vital gap in the market place, add something special to an area.

In May, **Simply Stunning Gifts** opened in Palmerston above VFM. It stocks soaps, bath bombs, soap cakes, bath creamers, candles, and aromatherapy products with prices up to 50 per cent less than other gift shops.

People love a browse and it's the ideal place to pick up some gifts for the ladies in your family – or to find some lovely stocking fillers. There's free gift wrapping too.

To have a look at what the company does, go to: *www.letsgetsoapy.co.uk*; or look up Simply Stunning Gifts on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Professional costume designer Angharad Gamble has a passion for the art of sewing and passing that skill on to others, and she opened **Rooftop Atelier** at 51 Vere Street in July.

It's a sewing school providing help for beginners, and those more confident who want to try and make more complex garments.

Angharad worked on top TV productions like Merlin and Da Vinci Demons during a 15 year career as a freelance costume designer and still does commissions for TV and theatrical productions.

She said: "I have had a good range of people in terms of age, starting with my sister-in-law's niece who is 11 years old and a friend's granddaughter who is in her teens.

"It is lovely having people in learning to sew, and surprising themselves by how much they can improve."

Angharad has all the sewing machines, table space for cutting, fabrics, haberdashery and equipment you could possibly need. If people would like, they can hire studio space for cutting and working.

You name it, people can learn to make it – dresses, trousers with zips, pyjamas, cushion covers, home décor items, patchworking, the possibilities are endless.

Angharad is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and has an evening session on Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

For more information, go to *www.rooftopatelier.co.uk*; or give Angharad a ring on 07491 676026.

Steve the owner of **Lovely Jubbly,** at 3 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a real Del Boy – but in the best possible way!

He explained: "I buy and sell second hand appliances and furniture. I loved Del Boy – hence the name of the shop.

"Everything is presented in as immaculate a condition as possible.

"We also do brand new beds at best prices. Singles start at £49, and doubles at £79 going up to around £500 to £600. Items are guaranteed too."

So whether its cookers, fridges, bookshelves, sofas, chairs, sets of drawers, stools – Steve's got something for you.

Steve is a Barry boy and attended Cadoxton Primary School, a stone's throw from his business. If there's an item you need, or want to sell, you can give him a ring on 07854 077 966.

A really popular arrival at 117 Barry Road is **Grizzlys Limited** run by Gareth McCulloch.

It provides meals, snacks and drinks, and when The GEM visited there was a steady stream of appreciative customers.

Gareth explained: "I opened at the end of July and everything has been ticking over just lovely. We've fitted in really well with the community and got a great rapport with local people."

Among his signature offerings are lamb and mint baguettes, and lasagne. He also does breakfasts, pasta dishes and home-made soups.

In fact, Gareth has dozens of fillings for baguettes – bacon and brie, cheese and red onion chutney, coronation chicken, and lots more.

Regulars love his £3.50 breakfast wrap with tea or coffee. And of course, there are cakes and cold drinks available with orders too.

Keep an eye out for Grizzlys on Facebook, it's going to be around for a long time to come.

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Roy's Toys on Main Street is a must visit shop at Christmas – with all the toys, cards, wrapping and Christmas accessories you could possibly need.

The shop has been making Christmas special for the children of Barry for 34 years. So what are the stand-out prezzies for children this year?

The cute little Shopkins characters, Hog Bikes, and a new game arrives soon, SpeakOut, the hilarious challenge game where people have to guess the phrase uttered when you have a mouthpiece in.

Carol also hosts a Scout Christmas post box. Deliveries are across the Vale and Cardiff. Posting deadline is Monday, December 5!

Welsh Window Systems, based at Shaftesbury House, Vere Street, Barry, is a family business established in 1987. It provides high quality replacement double glazed PVCu windows, doors, conservatories, replacement Fascia, Soffits and glass related products. It also specialises in repairing all PVCu, aluminium and timber windows, doors and conservatories. For information, go to: www.welshwindows.co.uk

Amer at PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is keen to raise awareness of cyber bullying and leaflets in the store provide top tips on keeping your child safe online.

Allan's Family Fish Bar run by Allan Payne is popular with all the locals in Cadoxton and delivers in Barry, Sully and Wenvoe. To order, tel: 01446 677997. Orders over £7.50, delivery is free.

FAMILY BUSINESSES AT THE HEART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

CARDIFF ROAD, Cadoxton and Palmerston in Barry is home to lots of independent, family businesses with local people committed to providing the very best service to the public.

People want help on their doorstep and that's what they provide.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for those who need technical support.

Amer, the owner, has a background in technology and working for top companies like Vodafone and Virgin Media, and he was the first trialist of cable modem broadband in Wales. He provides a repair and sales business in 'tech' products.

Keen to put something back into the local community, Amer said: "I want to raise awareness of cyber bullying. We've got leaflets in the store which provide top tips on keeping your child safe online."

In recent weeks there have been news stories about children being groomed online, and Amer is happy to provide free, impartial advice to parents or guardians who want to ensure their children are safe.

Don't forget, if you've got a problem with a computer, a tablet, mobile phone, a laptop or a console, Amer is there to help.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support also stocks a huge range of accessories, so for all your 'tech' products, just drop in to pick up what you need.

The business also has a Data Protection licence so you know that you are in good hands.

For more information ring 01446 733721; email: info@pcnmobiles.co.uk; or visit, www.pcnmobiles.co.uk.

LAST ORDERS

The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

'Made to measure' take around three weeks, and 'ready made' 10 days, sothere is still time to get some rooms, or a particular room, sorted out in time for Christmas. The cut-off date for orders is Friday, December 2.

Allison of **Allison's Celebration Cakes** is well known throughout south Wales for her splendid cakes. She even provided the 30th anniversary cake for the TV series Casualty!

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cakeboards in lots of different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters.

Allison creates all sorts of wonderful cakes with unique designs for every kind of special celebration or event.

TOP NOSH!

Allan's Family Fish Bar has built up a huge following in Barry over the last 15 years. Allan relocated to Vere Street after running the Chippy on the Bridge in Ely.

He offers a varied menu, including fish and chips, Clark's pies, kebabs, curries and southern fried chicken. There's free delivery on orders over £7.50.

Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicola are well respected funeral directors at the heart of the community.

The Vale Funeral Service is based at 181 Court Road, Cadoxton, and the couple say they are privileged to accommodate the well known former family name 'W Spickett & Son' within the business. It is the oldest family funeral directors in Barry and was established in 1837.

Lyndsay explained: "Together with our parent company Pidgeons Of Cardiff, we provide a family ethos, serving local families to the highest standards.

"We are committed to providing a professional, personal and caring service to bereaved families at all times.

"From the moment people contact us, we are there for them and will stay with them, every step of the way during a difficult time.

"We aim to give care and compassion in dealing with the bereaved family requirements and appreciate that each funeral takes on a different role."

Lyndsay stressed: "No two funerals are the same as each loved one deserves a personal tribute."

The Vale Funeral Service provides a 24-hour service, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year including bank holidays and Christmas Day. There is always a member of our staff available to talk to.

For more information, call or go to *www.thevalefuneralservice.co.uk*.

Steve's Barbers at 19 Vere Street, Cadoxton, is choc-full of Star Wars and football memorabilia. It makes a great backdrop and talking point as clients have their hair cut, and they love it. The shop is open six days a week: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 12 noon; Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday 9am to 5pm; and Saturday 8am to 3pm. To book an appointment, call 01446 738931.

Steve wants to wish all his customers 'The compliments of the season'.

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www.thelaundry-rooms.co.uk
info@thelaundry-rooms.co.uk

Remember…"Its where the best clothes hang out"

CADOXTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Christmas Entertainment 2016

Christmas Eve (Saturday)
'NO STATIC' DISCO
with bingo and tote. To take place in the downstairs bar. ***7:30pm til late***

Boxing Day (Monday)
DISCO AND KARAOKE
in the downstairs bar ***1:30pm onwards***
Bingo and tote ***7:30pm onwards***

New Years Eve (Saturday)
TICKETS NOW ON SALE £10 EACH
Fantastic vocal artist 'Dave Bowen'
7:30pm til late

New Years Day (Sunday)
'Bingo and tote as usual in the afternoon and evening

Book your celebration with us
We have a large function room plus 3 smaller rooms available to hire as well as a beer garden with BBQ area.

Child friendly and stair lift in situ for upper floors. All function rooms are available 7 nights a week, just pay for bar staff. Bingo and tote available every Sunday afternoon and evening (except Christmas day)

Beers from £2.55 Lagers from £2.75
Ciders from £2.75 Real ales from £2.75

Wine and prosecco by the glass or bottle at competitive prices

SKY SPORTS

For more information please call in or ring
01446 740534

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Pride in Barry says: Shopping locally has beneficial spin-offs

RHIAN LEES, the chairman of Pride in Barry, is encouraging local people to get 'shopping local'.

Rhian explained: "Cadoxton, Palmerston and Holton Road have so much to offer, from local independent traders offering the personal touch and local products, to many of the most recognised retailers and service providers on the high street.

"Especially at this time of year, when parking in Cardiff is at a premium, you can save time and money by doing your shopping locally, with free parking and plenty of great cafes to refuel.

"This year, Ice Central offers even more reasons to visit Holton Road.

"Shopping locally also has numerous spin-off benefits for the local economy, safeguarding local jobs and reducing the environmental impact of driving further afield."

People travel to VFM from as far away as the valleys and Cardiff because of its reputation for keeping prices as low as possible. Based in Palmerston, VFM has always got lots of meat deals and supplies all the other grocery essentials too.

There is still time to get an order in at Curtain and Net Centre, the deadline this year is Friday, December 2.

BELOW:
There's a real buzz in Ultimate Barbers at 4 Vere Street, Barry. When The GEM called last Friday, Donna and the team were hard at work as clients called in. The shop is open six days a week, normally 9am to 5.30pm, but on Friday it is open until 6pm, and on Saturday the hours are 8pm to 3pm. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, it's appointments only. Call 01446 742244 to book your appointment.
Donna and the team wish their customers a very happy Christmas.

The Barrygate features the best in Bangladeshi cuisine. It is located at the top of Main Street. Give yourself a break from cooking for the evening and treat yourself to something from Barrygate!

ABOVE:
Allison of Allison's Celebration Cakes is well known for her impressive creations – and here is the latest a tiered Barry snowman.

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Holy Cross Church tree concert captivates a packed audience

ON a crisp, cold Friday night, Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge hosted its Christmas Tree concert featuring Cowbridge Male Voice Choir and guests Elinor Parsons and Tom Hamilton.

The church was beautifully lit by a combination of the lights from over 50 Christmas trees and the subtle lighting of the church.

The evening began with the carol 'See Amid the Winter's Snow' sung by both the choir and a large audience.

The choir, under their musical director Shelley Thomas Brown, with Sandra Williams accompanying opened with 'Divine Brahma' from *The Pearl Fishers* followed by 'The Water is Wide', 'You Raise Me Up', and 'Rachie'.

This was followed by Elinor Parsons, who had captivated the audience with her performance at last year's concert. Elinor again produced a very polished and professional performance when she sang 'Bist Du Bei Mir'. She was then joined by Tom Hamilton to perform a duet of 'Falling Slowly'.

The choir returned to perform 'Cwm Rhondda', 'You are So Beautiful to Me', 'My Lord What a Morning' and ending the first half by singing Richter's *Creation*.

The second half of the concert commenced with all present singing the carol 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear' and the choir then continued with 'Gwahoddiad', 'Amazing Grace', 'He Ain't Heavy' and 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir'.

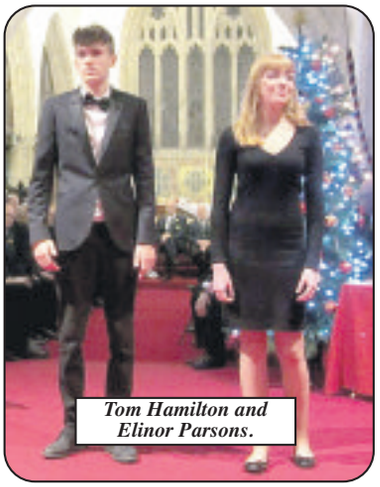
Following the first half performances, the audience warmly welcomed back Elinor and Tom. Elinor gave a beautiful rendition of 'Somewhere Only We Know' and was joined by Tom in singing that well known Christmas duet 'Baby It's Cold Outside', again performed to a high standard and fully appreciated by the audience.

It is encouraging to witness the emerging talents of young local performers and hopefully both Elinor and Tom will continue to expand their undoubted talent.

The choir's final set consisted of 'St Clement' and 'American Trilogy' and the final carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful' was sung by one and all!

This ended a memorable evening that was enhanced by the Christmas trees all around the church, which had been placed and beautifully decorated by local organisations. The majority of the trees will remain in place through the Christmas season.

FRANK MAYNARD



Tom Hamilton and Elinor Parsons.

Christmas tree glitter from St Clare's School

St Clare's pupils are ready for the Christmas Tree Festival.

YEAR-11 pupils from St Clare's Porthcawl spent an enjoyable afternoon decorating their special tree right in front of the pulpit at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

The Christmas Tree Festival is organised by The Rotary Club of Porthcawl and the St Clare's pupils belong to Interact Club, the school's branch of Rotary.

Pupils meet once a forthnight to support a local and international charity each year. Their chosen charity this year is Wales Air Ambulance.

Nicola Evans, a teacher at St Clare's said: "We are really proud of our Interact pupils. They develop very useful life skills in being active members of the local community."

Hurry! The Christmas Tree Festival ends on December 5 at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

ANGELA CELEBRATES TAKING THE DOUBLE!

A CARE home manager with the 'x-factor' has had a double success in major national awards.

Angela Rees, who lives in Bridgend, is in charge of the Ty Newydd care home in Roath, Cardiff, which cares for a small number of women aged 18 to 65 with mental health issues, and is known as 'an effective leader who is keen for her staff to progress so they can maximise the help they give to clients'.

It is this dedication to her job which saw Angela honoured twice at the 2016 Wales Care Awards held to recognise people who have the 'x-factor' in social care.

The awards, now in their 14th year, are in association with Care Forum Wales.

Angela said: "I'm honoured and delighted to receive these two awards in recognition of being part of an excellent team at Integra working together to achieve positive outcomes.

"It was a wonderful evening and an opportunity to meet with other award nominees and representatives of all the social sector.

"I was thrilled to receive the bronze award but also to be presented with such a prestigious award as Dignity on Care was the icing on the cake for me."

Rambling Merry Christmas

WITH the start of the Christmas celebrations in the Vale, switching on of the Christmas lights in towns and villages at' – this is a walk which is part of the self-guided walks that have been published by Valeways; see valeways.org.uk.

The ramble started in Wick, with a gentle walk along the lane, before crossing stile number one, which took us over fields and the railway line. The walk continued taking in the beautiful areas of Lampha and Colwinston. The weather was cold but it was a perfect day for walking. We stopped for a coffee and lunch on the way, before continuing our way through Llandow and eventually back to the start point, ending up at the Lamb and Flag to end the day – before making our way to join in the celebrations.

We would like to thank Valeways for opening up a path which had been previously blocked, the alternative route would have extended the walk .

The walk on Sunday, December 4 is a 7-8 mile moderate walk in the Aberthin area. Further information available on valeofglamorganramblers .org.uk or follow us on Facebook.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

BUCK IS GOING TO BE A BIG BOUNCY BOY!

Our Dog of the Week is Buck, a very cute Husky cross Rottweiler, who is only a few months old, so is going to be a big boy!

Even though Buck is young, he is strong-willed, so will need lots of off lead exercise to burn off his energy. He can be a bit mouthy, which we will give you advice on how to deal with this correctly.

His forever family will need to have experience of big breeds and also give the time required for training, which is essential.

Buck is lots of fun to be around and will make a lovely companion. He will need to live with adults only, with visiting children over 14 years. He can live with another older, well adjusted dog.

If you are interested in Buck, you will need to register first at the centre, as Buck is currently in a foster home. Please call 01656 725219, or visit our website.

Contact: Rhiannon Chamberlain, at the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Bridgend.

LLAMAU APPEALS

HOMLESSNESS charity Llamau has declared Tuesday as 'Giving Tuesday' to "give people a chance to stop and think about those who are less fortunate in society, and to end homelessness in Wales today".

"Last year, Llamau supported 8,144 vulnerable people in Wales. We're open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, including Christmas Day, giving support to young people and women in Wales," a spokesman said.

Visit www.llamau.org.uk for more details.

Fostering veteran Rae Parsons finally stepping down after 25 years' service

AFTER two and a half decades of giving vulnerable young people a head start in life, Rachael (Rae) Parsons has finally retired – at the age of 87!

Rae, from Cefn Glas, has been taking in young people since November 1991, sharing her home and providing guidance and support via the Supported Lodgings scheme.

The Bridgend County Borough Council-run scheme sees providers offer accommodation in a safe and supportive home environment to young people aged 16-21 who are leaving residential or foster care. The aim of the scheme is to help the young people develop the practical skills and emotional stability they need to live independently.

After a stint in the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF), Rae settled in Bridgend, where she married and had four daughters. With the loss of her husband, and the fact that all four daughters had left home, Rae found herself wanting to do something with her spare time, a spokeswoman reports.

One day, Rae saw an advertisement looking for people to welcome students into their homes and decided to apply. Soon after Rae applied, it became apparent that at the time the scheme was specifically for young offenders. However, this didn't deter her and she continued with her application.

The 'Raes' of this world are few and far between, and as the number of looked-after people in Bridgend county borough who are over the age of 16 continues to increase, more caring people are needed to come forward and provide a home environment and support.

"However, many people don't consider providing placements for young people, holding the stereotypical view that they will be troublesome," said a spokesperson.

Rae disagrees that all young people in care are naughty or hard work. She firmly believes that the young people who she has supported have positively changed her life just as much as she changed theirs.

Rae said: "The youngsters who have stayed with me have been a lot of fun and they've kept me young. At the end of the day, they are human beings who simply need someone they can talk to, someone who cares and can give them direction. There is good in every young person, you just need to find it."

Rae is proof that the supported lodgings scheme can be extremely beneficial for young people, particularly when they are shown support, respect and care.

ABOVE: Stephen Jones, social worker for Bridgend County Borough Council; Rachael Parsons, and Jade.

Rae continued: "Quite often I bump into the people who stayed with me over the years. It's always wonderful to see them and hear of their successes – they always say thanks for my support. Several still pop by to the house for a cuppa or to have tea. The majority of them work, have settled down or run their own home, which makes what I do all worthwhile. There's nothing more rewarding than knowing that I have helped the young people to improve their lives."

Jade, one of the young people who lived with Rae and is still in touch with her to this day, cannot speak highly enough of her, citing her support and guidance as the main reason she settled down and didn't go off the rails.

Jade said: "Rae was so welcoming, understanding, lovely, caring, and always thought about how I was feeling. In all the time I was around the care system, Rae's home was the only place I ever felt settled. That was down to Rae, no one else! Instantly, Rae came across as a firm friend and someone who I could tell anything, and that did mean a lot.

"Rae is like a second mum. She's amazing and the fact that years later, people are still going out of their way to go up to her to express their gratitude is testament to her hard work, commitment and dedication. That advert changed her life, my life and many more."

It's clear that Rae has absolutely loved being a Supported Lodgings provider for well over two decades, even during the more challenging times.

"It wasn't always smooth but the key is not to back down when faced with challenges, and lay down ground rules right from the beginning," Rae said. "Discipline doesn't do any harm and actually, most needed it. My military background definitely gave me an advantage though.

"Whenever a new person would come to live with me, I would always be apprehensive, as would they. However, I recognised how hard it was for the young person as they were coming to live in someone else's house. Sometimes you've got to put yourself in their shoes and definitely not judge.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it and wouldn't change anything because I love having kids in the house. If I had to go back 25 years, I would still take young people into my home, even the more challenging ones. The support I've received from my social worker has been absolutely fantastic. It's been a wonderful experience and if I'm honest, I'm gutted to retire."

"Supported Lodgings provides a stepping stone towards independence and has provided many young people with positive outcomes as a direct result of the scheme," reported a spokesperson for the council.

The council's cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "Supported Lodgings offers vulnerable young people the stability and loving homes which are needed for them to progress onto adulthood and reach their full potential.

"We are extremely grateful for everything Rae has done for the Supported Lodgings scheme. She deserves recognition for everything she has done. She is a special person who must be congratulated for the dedication she has shown over the last 25 years.

"Rae has given many young people the opportunity to change their lives – she taught them life skills, but more importantly she listened, cared and never judged. We wish her well on her retirement.

"We always need more people to become Supported Lodgings providers so that we can continue to offer this important scheme."

SULLY MAKE SLOW START TO INDOOR BOWLS SEASON

SULLY Indoor Bowls Club Championship Team have made a poor start to the new season, losing both opening games.

The first was on Saturday, October 8 away to Port Talbot, who were relegated last season but were always going to be formidable opponents, and next home to Newport.

Sully v Port Talbot

THE Port Talbot game came early in the new season with many Sully players short of practice and with Port Talbot fielding a number of top class players.

After five ends, Port Talbot had gone into a useful 17-shot lead (37–20). Unfortunately, the rink of John Best, Alan Rees, Peter Hocking and Skip Carl Best were up against a Port Talbot rink skipped by renowned International bowler John Price and were 12–0 down.

As the game progressed, Port Talbot continued to pressurise but two Sully rinks skipped by Fred Phillips and Matt Gershenson were both managing to hold a four-shot advantage over their opponents leading 12–8 and 10–6 respectively after the 10th end.

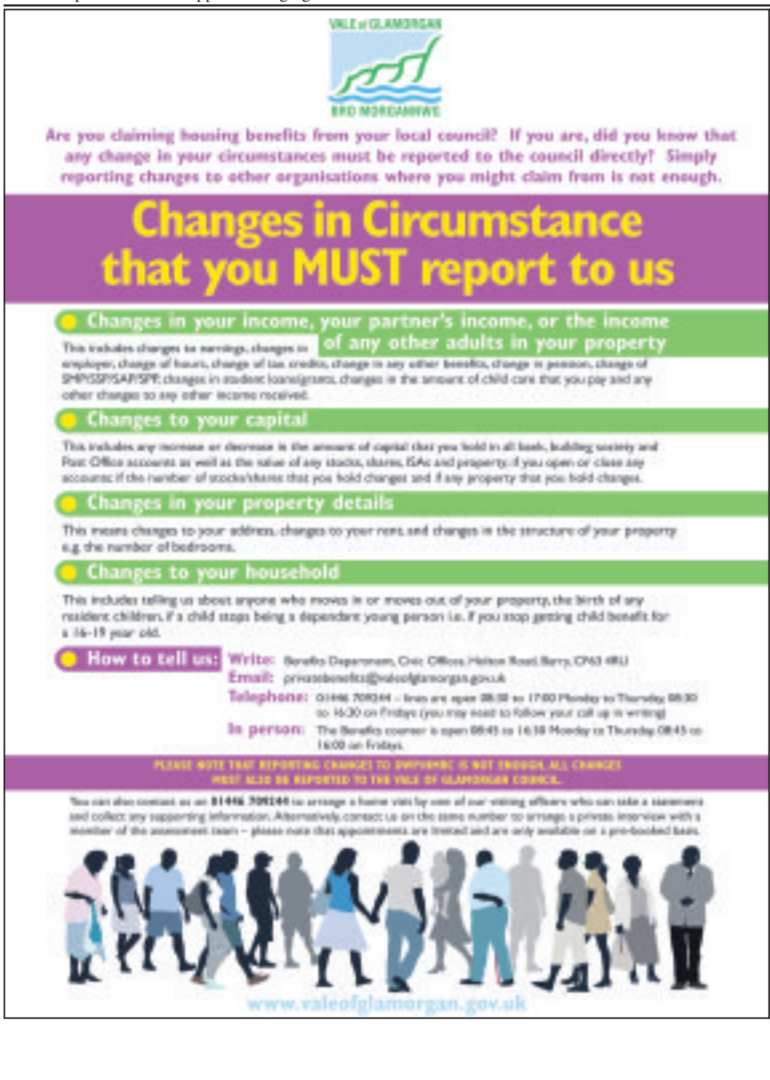
The other Sully rinks skipped by Dave Curtis, Chris Ackland and Ken McLeod were now competing well but at this stage Port Talbot still held an 18-shot lead, mainly due to the rink of John Price, who were playing brilliant bowls increasing their advantage over Best's rink to 19–1.

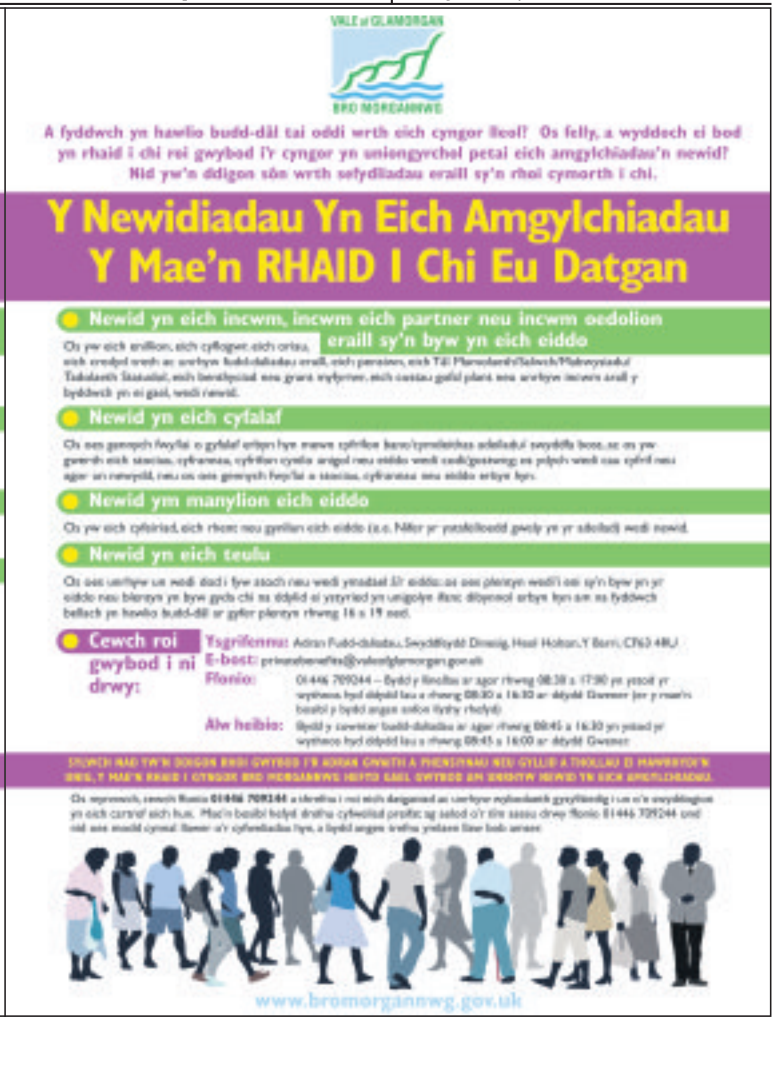
Through ends 11–15, Port Talbot increased their advantage to 28 shots, with the Sully rinks skipped by Ackland, McLeod and Curtis losing ground to their opponents behind by seven, 11 and four respectively, while Best clawed five shots back, and with Phillips and Gershenson remaining ahead four shots apiece, the overall score now stood at 69–97 in favour of the home side.

Over the closing ends Sully continued to struggle and the rinks of McLeod and Curtis lost out to their opponents by 16 and 12 respectively, with Best's rink always under the cosh finally losing by 20 shots.

Ackland's rink fought back well eventually going down by just one shot 19–20, leaving the rinks of Charles Coomber, Graham Brown, Paul Webley and Fred Phillips to win by four along with the rink of Phil Gershenson, John Jones, Graham Cogbill and Matt Gershenson scraping home by two shots as the only Sully winning rinks.

Port Talbot gained 18 points to Sully's four points, winning overall by 43 shots (97–140). **FP**





RHOOSE & ST. ATHAN
for a Cosy Village Christmas

'Rhoose issues its seasonal invitation to help you this Christmas'

by Coun Jeff James

I HOPE people are looking forward to the pre-Christmas period in Rhoose, when we start to get that sense of festive urgency and fun.

Make sure you order your turkey, buy your presents, get spruced up and be ready to have fun with Christmas parties and a very warm welcome from the traders of Rhoose!

There is a seasonal invitation to enjoy all our pubs and restaurants. Businesses in Rhoose are known for their warm welcome and their great service.

We must not forget the true meaning of Christmas, and here is the list of local church services:

Keep an eye out for these special services:

4pm Sunday, December 11, Messy Christingle, St Peter's.

6pm, Sunday, December 18, nine lessons and carols St Peter's.

5pm, Christmas Eve, December 24, Crib Service St Peter's.

11.30pm Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24, Midnight Eucharist, St Curig's.

10am Christmas Day, All Age Christmas Day celebration eucharist St Peter's.

A happy Christmas from the people Rhoose, and don't forget all the things it has to offer!

Christmas time means a visit to Coffee Time and Glenys serving up a festive speciality like a 'hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry' baguette!

The Six Bells is looking foward to a 'cracking festive season'

Pipelle has become an Alladin's Cave of Christmas gifts.

Deano of Deano's Barbers, pictured with Ciaran, said: "We really appreciate the continued support and custom we've enjoyed in 2016, and look forward to welcoming existing, and new, customers, in 2017."

People love the cosy atmosphere at the Six Bells, Penmark, over Christmas time.

THERE'S nothing like the traditional Welsh country pub at Christmas – and the Six Bells in Penmark hits all the right notes, with great food, a cosy atmosphere, entertainment, and a function room for special events.

When The GEM highlighted The Six Bells in its dining feature it scored top marks for hospitality and food.

Owners Mark and James are great hosts and have developed a reputation that draws people, not just from the Vale, but Cardiff and further afield.

James said: "We're looking forward to a cracking festive season."

Christmas Day is fully booked, but during the week, daytime and evenings are still available (*telephone 01446 710 229 for bookings*).

The Six Bells is an ideal, relaxing venue for office lunches too and has ample car parking. If you would like a menu sent to your business, just email *mail@sixbellspenmark.co.uk*.

For more information on The Six Bells, Penmark (CF62 3BP) go to www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk.

FONTYGARY INN FESTIVE FUN

THE Fontygary Inn is a pub blessed to be all things to all men and women!

From a leisurely coffee on a busy morning, to a lunchtime pint with pals, or an evening's entertainment – live music, quizzes and even karaoke – it really does live up to the cliche of "something for everyone".

And the fun doesn't stop at Christmas.

Patrons Kevin and Kerry Eade – celebrating their 10th Christmas at the Fontygary Inn – and team are pulling out the stops this year, to make sure everyone has a cracker of a Christmas.

All the traditional favourites are on the festive menu from turkey and all the trimmings smothered in rich homemade gravy to (for any vegetarians in your party) a vegetable nut roast made with prime apricots, peanuts, almonds and walnuts topped with mellow goat's cheese.

Christmas Day is strictly drinks only and no food is served that day.

For those looking to go a little "continental" for Christmas, the Fontygary Inn's own beef Stroganoff is a dream.

For bookings, call 01446 711221.

The people of St Athan enjoy the community spirit – and its very special atmosphere at Christmas time

ST ATHAN is a small village in the Vale with a population of around 5,000 people, a small amount of shops, a church that dates back to the 13th or 14th century and two public houses.

For me, growing up in St Athan was a joyous time, attending the local primary school, which was built in the mid 1960s, going to ballet classes in the old community hall which over the years has been used as a polling station and for playgroups and parties.

Like me, several generations of families still live in the village, enjoy the community spirit, rural views and its special atmosphere at Christmas.

Aimee Wilson

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Open to our local community and visitors.
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A Merry Christmas to all our clients.
Bookings now being taken.
Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose
01446 710608

The FONTYGARY INN
Celebrate Christmas & New Year with family & friends at the Fontygary Inn
FESTIVE MENU now being served.
PARTY BOOKINGS being taken. (Limited availability)
NEW YEARS TICKETS on sale at £7.50 to include disco & buffet.
Don't miss the traditional BOXING DAY RACE NIGHT from 8pm
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY (Drinks only) 11am-2pm.
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT every Friday & Saturday.
Open every day for food from 12 noon.
Breakfast served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12pm.
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH served 12-5pm.
SPECIAL LUNCH TIME MENU available Monday to Saturday 12-3pm just £8.95 for 2 courses.
Sky Sport & BT Sport showing all live matches
Check out our website for details of menus & entertainment.
Fonmon Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711221 www.fontygaryinn.com

Coffee Time
Open Breakfast Time to Tea Time
Christmas Baguettes - Turkey with Stuffing and Cranberry now available
Christmas Spiced Coffees
Full Lunchtime Menu available
Full Breakfast Menu available all day from 9am
Hygiene Rating 5
Buffets Available
We cater for all events
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm
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21 Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711600
A Merry Christmas to all our customers

DEANO'S BARBER SHOP
A Merry Christmas & a big thank you to all clients
Join us for a complimentary festive drink and mince pie throughout December!
Open
Mon 8.30am-4pm. Tues 7.30am-4.30pm.
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The perfect choice to celebrate the festive season
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3 Course Meal
Lunchimes £17.95 Evening £23.95
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Sunday 18th December 8pm.
Warming mulled wine & festive nibbles.
Great prizes - only £1 a square.
Now available from the bar.
Function Suite
available to hire over the Christmas period for larger groups & office parties.
Great Food • Great Drinks • Great Local
01446 710229
www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

RHOOSE & ST. ATHAN
for a Cosy Village Christmas

BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO STAND THE TEST OF TIME!

RHOOSE is blessed with local business people who have invested their futures in the local community and year after year provide excellent products and high standards of service.

At Christmas time, when we are all so busy, they are a real life saver.

Take **Coffee Time** in the centre of the village run by Glenys.

High streets are benighted these days with cookie-cutter, chain coffee shops or ones which the epithet 'kitsch' was invented.

How pleasant it is to visit an independent cafe that has no pretensions and whose mission statement seems to be: *"To serve tasty homemade food, and drinks, in a friendly environment."*

And that's just what Glenys and her staff do at Coffee Time on Fontgary Road. The smell of freshly-ground coffee assails one's senses on entering, to be followed swiftly – on the writer's visit – by the scent of spiced lattes and the waft of hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry baguettes.

A Christmassy heaven in one breath!

Coffee Time, which also caters for functions, has lots of loyal regulars who find it the most convenient place to meet up with a friend or have a relaxing break in a busy day.

Open from 9am until 4pm, one could sit in the convivial surroundings watching the world go by, reading a newspaper or listening to the gentle hum of the chit-chat around.

Glenys would like readers of The GEM to know that Coffee Time is open as usual up to and including Friday, December 23, but closes from then until January 2.

She welcomes customers and friends, old and new, to pop in for a bite before Christmas.

Coffee Time is at 21 Fontgary Road, Rhoose, Barry, CF62 3DS; Tel: 01446 711600.

APPRECIATION

Deano's Barber Shop was established in Rhoose in 1999 by Dean Chamberlain – the grandson of Michael Olympios, owner of Michael's Hairdressing Salon/Barbershop of Cardiff Docks and Clifton Street between 1956 and 1990.

Deano's is a traditional barber shop running a walk-in service, open six days a week, offering reduced rates for children and senior citizens.

Deano said: "We really appreciate the continued support and custom we've enjoyed in 2016, and look forward to welcoming existing, and new, customers, in 2017."

Deano's Barber Shop is at 7 Fontygary Road, CF62 3DR. Tel: 01446 710434 or visit Facebook.

A familiar and welcome sight on Fontygary Road now, and all the more so at Christmas, is **Pipelle**.

It is a real treasure for a neighbourhood already blessed with a variety of stores, shops and cafes.

Pipelle is not only a post office, but also a greengrocers, gift shop and – joy of joys – an old-fashioned sweet shop.

Jars of mint humbugs, coconut mushrooms, millions, liquorice and much more grace the shelves.

Peter Stewart, who runs the store, said that gift jars are an increasingly popular present for children aged three to 93!

"We will also make up, and deliver free of charge, fruit and veg boxes for customers," said Peter.

The advice, as with buying stamps and posting one's gifts, is to plan early for Christmas.

Peter also reminds readers that normal opening hours are 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturdays –including Christmas Eve – are from 8.30am to 1pm.

Pipelle Old Village Stores and Post Office, is at 55-55A Fontygary Road, Barry, CF62 3DT. Tel: 01446 719243; also visit Facebook.

Three key phrases that have been adopted in foodie circles are "provenance", "farm local" and "shop local".

And for those lucky enough to have one, a neighbourhood butcher is the best way to fulfill those ideals.

Barratt's Fine Meats, on Fontygary Road in Rhoose, is an exemplar of its kind.

In business for more than 40 years, the shop has a range of meat and poultry tempting enough to convert a vegetarian – and everything is labelled with the farm from where it came.

THE HIGHWAYMAN TRULY DELIVERS!

THE HIGHWAYMAN in Nurston village, just to the south of Cardiff Airport, has enjoyed nearly a full year since its refurbishment, and according to Wayne Morgan it has been its very best!

"Better than ever, in fact," said Wayne, the manager.

"We regularly have groups coming from Carmarthenshire and Gloucestershire for lunch and dinner, so our reputation has spread, fairly widely, by reputation and word of mouth."

Good news clearly travels far and fast, and to such an extent that Christmas Day is fully booked.

However, the extensive menu, revamped for December, but retaining the famed 'Condemned Man's' meal (40 ounces of meat) remains on offer, alongside the 'Ultimate Condemned Man's Meal' (60oz of meat), both of which come with a salad garnish.

The New Year's Eve party should be a hoot.

Wayne began at the Highwayman Inn 15 years ago as head chef, and in January, celebrates his sixth anniversary of being in charge.

He noted that some things have stayed the same, while others have changed.

"We still offer generous portions and pride ourselves on using the best ingredients. As for trends in eating... Fish has become more popular and there is more of it on the new menu, and vegetarian food has really taken off in the last 10 or so years, although you still get the occasional wag saying 'I like vegetarian food... with a steak'."

ABOVE: The Highwayman goes from strength to strength.

The bar, too, offers a range of ales, wines and spirits to make for a very 'Merry Christmas'.

Speaking of spirits, legend tells of a mysterious grey lady seen about the building. However, with the proximity of the Highwayman Inn to the airport, one is far more likely to see a British Airways 747 or A380 than a spectral female.

The Highwayman Inn offers great food and a great atmosphere all year round, just a little more so at Christmas.

The Highwayman Inn, Port Road, Nurston, Rhoose, CF62 3BH. Tel: 01446 719105, visit www.highwayman-pub.com or go to Facebook.

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Point to Point community mourns Vivian John Hughes

OBITUARY BY BRIAN LEE

THE sudden death of former hunt-racing owner, trainer and rider Vivian John Hughes, of the Llangeinor Hunt, will come as a shock to many enthusiasts.

Vivian, a much-loved partner of Lisa, a former point-to-point rider herself, and a devoted father of Ben and a much-loved son and brother, will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Vivian rode his first winner *Ansam* in the adjacent hunts' race at the Ystrad Hunt Point-To-Point back in the 1990s. He was 19-years-old and *Ansam*, a 20-1 outsider of three, was the only horse to complete the course.

It was at Chepstow racecourse that Vivian won the Russell Baldwin and Bright Hunter Chase on that good mare *Doubting Donna*. Vivian, a builder by trade, on another memorable occasion rode three winners at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases. He took the Men's Open on *Doubting Donna* and both divisions of the Confined Maiden on *Miss Millbrook* and *Glen Nova*. *Miss Millbrook* went on to win the inaugural Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase at Chepstow in 1996, with Evan Williams in the saddle.

However, most hunt-racing fans will associate Viv with his *Primaticcio* which won (among other races) the 2002 Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford under Ogmore's Christian Williams.

Kumuda, *Pay U Cash* and *Sea Haitch Em* are just three other point-to-pointers that Vivian, an unassuming man, will be associated with.

Jack Rowsell of Pontypridd whose son Robert used to ride against Vivian in point-to-points said: "It is so sad. Vivian was a good horseman and he was a great friend of my son Robert. We will miss seeing him around the shows."'

BRIAN LEE

Vale under-15s are too strong for north Walian opponents

Saturday saw the Vale under-15s travel to Bangor for their first away match of the season, against RGC Schools West.

The game kicked off slightly later than anticipated, to allow the pitch to thaw. RGC won the toss and changed ends, hoping to benefit from the low winter sun in the eyes of the Vale.

However, it wasn't long before wing Matt Oddy crossed the line for the Vale's first try, converted by Ioan Cooper.

A second try from Tom Ap John, swiftly followed, again converted by Ioan.

The Vale's domination began to show. Benji Williams was soaring to take RGC's lineout ball, the forwards took the ball on before Lewys Williams darted over the line for the third try for a 19 – 0 scoreline.

The fourth try was a gem. RGC attacked deep into the Vale half before the ball was turned over and wing forward Iestyn Galton shot down the wing to score under the posts for a half time score of 26 – 0

The second half began with the Vale enjoying the sun at their backs, playing some lovely expansive rugby, and they extended their lead with two tries from Benji Williams, the second of which saw the No 8 cross the line carrying a RGC defender.

Prop Christian Brooke scored the seventh try, running in from the 10 metre line, Ioan Cooper converting.

The final two tries came from the Vale wingers. They featured powerful running from Will Hardy, who scored on the left (converted by Cooper), then another came from the mercurial Jake Thomas scoring on the right.

The final try took the Vale over 50 points and the referee signalled the end of the game.

Our thanks as always to the parents and coaches for their support, and to our sponsor Apricot Online. Also to Bangor RFC and RGC for their hospitality, good luck to them for the rest of the season.

Thanks also to Liza Williams for her match photography. The Vale's next game is a local derby against Cardiff Schools on December 11.

Follow our progress on twitter @ValeSchoolsU15

MV

Photographs by Lisa Williams.

Barry Town United look forward to Cup final against The New Saints

BARRY Town United will challenge The New Saints in the Nathaniel MG Cup Final on Saturday, January 21, after the record-breaking Welsh Premier League champions confirmed their place in the national final with a 1-0 win at Connah's Quay Nomads last Tuesday evening.

Scott Quigley's ninth-minute strike proved the match-winner for Craig Harrison's unbeaten Saints, seven days after their original meeting at the Deeside Stadium was dramatically abandoned with the score at 2-2, a casualty of severe fog.

Despite a gallant effort from the Nomads, the result in north Wales now sets up a tantalising showdown between the record-breaking eight-time winners and the former five-time holders, to be held at a venue to be confirmed.

With everyone at Jenner Park looking forward to the club's first appearance in the final since 2001, the Town remain in contention to challenge for Welsh League Division One honours and bolstered their title aspirations with a solid 2-0 win over Taffs Well the following weekend.

Jordan Cotterill, whose powerful free-kick against Carmarthen secured Barry's final appearance, stroked home the first half opener, with strike partner TJ Nagi finishing the job after the break, side-footing home after good work from teammate Tyrell Webbe.

However, Gavin Chesterfield's team could not maintain their winning ways at Caerau Ely this past Saturday afternoon, conceding an 87th-minute equaliser at Cwrt-Yr-Ala, after James Dixon had broken the deadlock for the Barrians.

With Goytre drawing 2-2 at Haverfordwest, Barry remain six points adrift of the Welsh League Division One leaders, with a pair of games in hand.

The Town will be without a first team fixture this weekend, following the postponement of their home game with Cambrian & Clydach, with Webbe and defender Chris Hugh set to represent Wales in the inaugural Home Nations Championship of Futsal.

Finally, the club would like to extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bryn Matthews, who passed away recently.

A keen Barry supporter, Bryn had been a familiar face at Jenner Park for many seasons, after attending his first match in 1948.

AC

Vale Bridge club results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for November 28 are as follows:

First, Geoff Tinkler and John Henson (61.61 per cent); second, Phil Feldman and Tony Disley (60.12); joint third, Simon and Debbie Richards, and Julia Evans and Cherry Cadwallader (55.95). **LE**

Cowbridge under-16s just edged out in quality game

Cowbridge under-16s came up just short in a pulsating away fixture against a very strong Pontypridd team.

Cowbridge were once again down to 14 boys, but to be fair to the Pontypridd coaches, they offered to play the game with only 14 too.

Both teams have been extremely well coached over the years and have demonstrated a high skill level accompanied with pace and strength.

On Sunday, Ponty were the first on the score sheet with an early penalty just inside the Cowbridge 10-metre line.

Cowbridge were the first to cross the white wash with a classic breakaway try. Jack Little made a great tackle in midfield, first to the break down was Ben Jones, the open-side flanker, who made a text book turnover.

From the quick ball Jake Cannon ran hard, and the ball passed through a series of hands before Jack Dixon with a brilliant side step, stood the Ponty full back up and outpaced the covering defence to score. The try was not converted.

Cowbridge were now in full flow and put Ponty under a huge amount of pressure. From a scrum just inside the Ponty half, I Williams sniped down the blind side and off loaded to R Williams, who burst through Ponty's first line of defence and was caught five metres short of the line.

He off-loaded for Dixon but the touch judge adjudged that Williams had just put his foot in touch before he managed to off load the ball.

Ponty came back at Cowbridge and through their much bigger pack, kept the Cowbridge team in their own 22 for a long period. Time after time Ponty picked the ball up, keeping the play tight and made gains towards the Cowbridge line.

After five minutes the Cowbridge defence succumbed and Ponty forced their way over the line and converted the try. **Pontypridd 10 – Cowbridge 5**.

Straight from the kick off Cowbridge managed to secure a line out just inside the Ponty 22. Brilliant clean ball off the top of the line out by Iestyn Fenn allowed I Williams to get his backs moving. A training ground move put Harry Ridge clear and he scored Cowbridge's second try of the game under the posts without a hand being laid upon him. I Williams converted.

Cowbridge were now dominant and from a breakdown just outside the Ponty 22, I Williams sniped down the blind side and broke through . He was clear and about to touch the ball down, when the referee blew up. Then, in a decision which left the crowd confused, the referee awarded Cowbridge a scrum.

Cowbridge quickly scored their third try of the half. Dixon and Ridge combined in midfield and Dixon went clear to score under the posts. I Williams converted. **Pontypridd 10 – Cowbridge 19**.

Ponty came back at Cowbridge and, with simple passing along the backs, scored in the corner, but could not convert.

In an incredibly tense second half points were hard to come by for both teams. Ponty kept the ball tight while Cowbridge tried to move the bigger pack around with some excellent back play.

Both defences were holding tight as the game approached the final five minutes. With players getting frustrated by basic mistakes, tempers were starting to get frayed.

Following a number of tap penalties, Ponty forced their way over the line to take the lead with minutes remaining. They converted to make the score **Pontypridd 22 – Cowbridge 19.**

Cowbridge threw everything they had at Ponty and dragged the Ponty defence from one side of the field to the other and back again.

E Thomas threw a great pass off his right, to put Dixon clear. With the covering defence haring across the pitch, Dixon passed to Lewis Hawke on the right wing. Hawke stepped inside one defender and powered over the line, only for the referee to decide he had been held up.

From the resulting five metre scrum, the larger Ponty pack managed to disrupt the Cowbridge ball and, following a knock on, the referee brought the game to an end. An excellent game of 14-a-side rugby played by two very good teams.

Full time: Pontypridd 22 – Cowbridge 19.

GJ

Dinas Ladies hit six of the best in trip to Rhiwbina

RHIWBINA LADIES 0 - 6 DINAS LADIES

The villagers continued their fine start to the season and now remain unbeaten going into a busy December following a very impressive display of attacking football and not conceding one goal in November.

After 20 minutes it looked like it was going to be one of those days as Laura Murray, Laura Lewis, Molly Chapman and Nao were all guilty of not finishing when it looked harder to miss.

Lewis had the ball in the back of the net but was adjudged to be off-side. This seemed to be the early pattern as Rhiwbina played a high line, catching the pacey forwards out time and time again.

Murray showed the composure that she possesses and added two quick goals to steady the ship.

Lewis and Chapman both tested the home side's defence with their pace, which was proving too much to handle. Jo Jones and Samantha Saunders had control of the middle as they were well on top in that battle.

In the second half the girls from Dinas carried on their high tempo approach and soon found themselves again guilty of missing simple chances when players were crying out for a simple square ball. Gema Crowley had a solid 30 minutes in the 9 role and was unlucky not to score.

Demi Bounds soon found herself on the end of a brilliant cross but managed only to strike the post.

Moments later though, Bounds made sure as she coolly finished. Jodi Bowles, Nao and a collector's piece from Jo Jones gave the visitors a more respectable score line of 6-0 as they all took their chances.

The defence has grown in strength with every game and they proved too strong for the Cardiff team as they held strong to the counter attacks. Dinas never took their foot off the gas and Chapman was like a girl possessed as her unselfish running and desire to win was there to see.

The ladies have certainly put Dinas back on the map this season and the spirit amongst them all is a credit to their hard work at training.

Players of the match: Samantha Saunders and Molly Chapman.

Lee Saunders

IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Take advantage of the free weekend parking to get to know more about Bridgend

A craft market in Bridgend town centre proved popular last week, and continues until this Saturday, December 3.

BRIDGEND doesn't always get the best press, with arguments about pedestrianisation and other issues, but the town and surrounding area remains an important area of economic activity, with plenty of local businesses plying their trade successfully and doing what counts most – keeping their customers satisfied.

The run up to Christmas is important for almost every business, and it is important to the image of the area, and this year, Bridgend town centre has made great efforts.

Last Saturday (November 26) was Bridgend's big curtain raiser with Santa and his reindeer arriving, and the Christmas lights switched on in the early evening, with a craft market in Caroline Street.

In fact, the craft market is there all week long until Saturday, December 3.

On Saturday, December 10, the elves will be out in force for the 'Elfsteddfod' in Adare Street, a day of family fun with workshops, face painting and an attempt at a world record for the longest elf conga!

The organisers say that the first 1,000 people to turn up dressed in red and green will each receive an free elf hat!

Finally, on every Saturday up to and including December 17, you can support local charities and take your little one to meet Santa by visiting Santa's Grotto in Carnegie House (the old library) in Wyndham Street, 10am-4pm.

As well as Santa, there will be free craft tables, activities for children, story telling sessions, and locally-made goods for sale.

Proceeds from the event will be collected by the Bridgend Lions Club, and will be distributed to local good causes.

However, it is advisable to book online to secure that meeting with Santa, and this can be done on *www.carnegiehouse.co.uk*

In the town itself, there have been positive developments, as a brand new car park, replacing the old Rhiw one, is now up and running.

In fact, for the entire month of December, there will be free parking in this car park (and other Bridgend County Borough Council-owned car parks) on Saturdays and Sundays, after 10am.

Above the car park, scheduled to be completed in around May, will be retail units and above them, flats for people who want to live and work in the town, or commute from the nearby railway station.

It's an example of the local council's plan to rejuvenate the town centre by having people living above retail units as much as possible.

One business with faith in the town centre is Malmo Hearing – after all, they have been there for eight years now.

It's a family firm and it does far more than just hearing aids. It does, of course, offer free hearing tests, and also wax removal, but it does a great deal of work on the preventative side.

Rachael Barnett of Malmo said: "Our latest focus is custom-made hearing protectors to stop people suffering from tinnitus in later life.

"Musicians are an obvious sector that would benefit, but that applies to other areas of work too."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Local storage firm's bright ideas to help Macmillan

WITH Christmas approaching, the staff at Dainton Self Storage in Bridgend are encouraging the community to donate any soft toys they no longer want so they can be raffled off to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support in the New Year.

Many families free up space in their children's toy collection at this time of year with the promise of new toys soon to be arriving from Santa.

Often, families will have toys that are no longer played with that could be loved by a new owner and with this in mind, Dainton Self Storage have set up a collection point at their Bridgend site on Coity Road for any clean soft toys in good condition.

The Dainton Self Storage staff chose Macmillan Cancer Support as their adopted charity at the beginning of the year and have so far raised an incredible £10,000 through many fundraising activities, including organising their first family fun day. The Dainton team hope support for their soft toy collection and their annual 'Elf Storage' service will push their fundraising total even higher!

With children (and some curious adults!) keen to learn what Santa is bringing, Dainton are also offering to store presents in their 'Elf Storage' units from December 1 up until Christmas Eve, safe from prying eyes in return for a voluntary £1 donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Dainton's operations director, Shaun Duncan, said: "We are really proud of our fundraising total and hopefully our soft toy collection and Elf Storage will help us end the year on a high. Elf Storage is perfect for those difficult-to-hide presents like bicycles, doll's prams etc and we are pleased to help out at this time of year.

"Christmas is a wonderful time for giving and we realise that many families have toys taking up space at home that could be passed on to others to enjoy. Our soft toy collection can help with this, while raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to many people's hearts."

Take advantage of Dainton's special 'Elf storage' Christmas offer!

Soft toys for Macmillan and presents for Elf Storage can be dropped into Dainton Self Storage on Coity Road during the reception opening hours of 8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday, where they will be stored in secure storage units set aside for both purposes. Any presents stored in Elf Storage can be collected up until December 24.

Anyone who wants to take advantage of Dainton's Elf Storage service should call the Elf Storage hotline on 01656 750293 or email bridgend@dainton.com.

Santa and his reindeer visited the town last Saturday, and they were in Wyndham Street so that youngsters could get a close-up look.

AN EXPERT'S ADVICE COULD AVOID DISPUTE

BRENDAN SWEENEY, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

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We have a wonderful selection from fantastic labels , Bianca, Olsen, marble, Poppy, Emreco, pomodoro, Adini and some great outer wear from David Barry.

If you're fed up with the usual dull winter colours, come in and try some of our coordinated range of coloured trousers and cords from poppy, Olsen and marble.

Poppy trousers are a great all rounder, this season in gorgeous claret and mulberry as well as traditional black, navy, grey and brown with matching knitwear – what's not to like?

If you haven't tried marble jeans, what are you waiting for? Plum, lime or mink are lovely ways to add colour to your winter wardrobe, as well as back and navy.

Olsen trousers are a fabulous fit, Mona jeans in claret, camel , black or navy, topped off with a warm knit and a gilet, voila!

If you're looking to beat the cold, call in and see the range of coats, padded coats in lovely pink, grey, gold and navy, wool coats in red, navy and black and a fab range of waterproof in purple, olive, red, navy and stone.

As well as all that, gorgeous gilets, faux fur from Bianca and marble, padded and knitted, we really are a one stop shop!

We also have a fab range of accessories, ponchos, capes, scarves and necklaces for those difficult-to-buy-for friends and family, and if your really stuck for ideas, what about a gift voucher?

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IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

WHEN SANTA CAME TO TOWN

BRIDGEND Lions got off to a flying start with Santa arriving in Bridgend town centre on Saturday, November 26 supported by lots of elves (*above*).

Santa enjoyed his ride through Bridgend town on the sleigh drawn by his trusted reindeer, before going to the Christmas grotto where he was joined by members of Bridgend Lions and their partners, who welcomed many children and some 700 visitors throughout the day.

Busy Santa chatted to 100-plus children in his grotto and received letters and cards prepared by them.

There were craft stalls to amuse the children while waiting to see him, and a mail room where they could write their Christmas lists.

Adults browsed the beautiful Christmas gift stalls and later in the day, Santa met a large number of delightful angels before switching on the town's lights. Hundreds of people attended the event and joined in the carol singing.

A successful day was had by everyone involved. The reindeer were there but the rain stayed away!

ABOVE: Malmo Hearing have been in Bridgend town centre for eight years.

Get to know Bridgend traders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

The company is trying to raise awareness of the tinnitus issue, and recently ran a competition linked to Bonfire Night where they gave away free ear defenders to some lucky children to protect against really loud bangs.

Malmo have an outreach programme too, and recently installed a machine in Cowbridge Health Centre that enables people to do a five-minute 'self assessment' of their hearing.

That could head off a few family rows that break out when one partner thinks the other's hearing is deteriorating.

Riverside Hardware and Engineering used to be in the town centre but outgrew their premises and moved out to the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Owner Ryan Woodbridge may not put on Christmas offers as such, but he has the winter season thoroughly covered, offering a huge range of Calor portable gas heaters.

For DIY products, of course, his premises stock a very wide range that can make the job easier for anyone planning a project over the holiday break.

Another town centre company that has made plans for Christmas is the Denture Design Centre in the Crosby Yard Industrial Estate, Wildmill.

There, Matthew Thomas is one of only a few dental technicians qualified to supply dentures as well as repair them.

Of course, a set of dentures is a rare Christmas present, but repairs to existing sets are a more common Christmas need.

For this reason, he will be opening to cater for emergency repairs on December 28, 10am to 12 noon, and the charges will be normal price, with no holiday time extras.

Emergency work will also be done over the Christmas period. Just call the laboratory number (01656 767806) to discuss.

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EVERYONE IS A WINNER AT ANNUAL 'MUSIC IN THE VALE' COMPETITION

ABOVE: Instrumental junior group, left to right: Betsi Watkins, piano; Efa Peak, harp (winner); Harrison Ollier, guitar (HC); Erin Perkins, piano (runner-up); Grace Angharad Jones, flute.

Instrumental ensemble (HC) Harmonious Harps splinter group. The sextet are mostly from Cowbridge School.
Please note, HC alongside a competitor's name means 'Highly Commended'.

ABOVE: Young singer junior winner Megan Jayne Malow.

ABOVE: Adjudicator Patricia Wheatley O'Neill, Rhiannon Ashley (winner), Grace Farrell (runner-up), adjudicator Elizabeth Donovan.

ABOVE: Instrumental young intermediate group: Alessia D'Ambrosio, piano (HC); Megan Thomas, harp (runner-up); adjudicator Gwyn L Williams; Huw Boucher, harp (winner); William Davies, piano (HC).

ABOVE: Young singer intermediate winner Megan Grace Jones, with adjudicator Elizabeth Donovan.

ABOVE: Instrumental intermediate group, back row left to right Aisha Palmer, Rhys Wyn Newton, Jacob Court, Holly Rhiannon Thompson, Abbie Nia Williams; front row left to right Maccie Wallis (runner-up), adjudicator Lucy Robinson, Tomos Arthur Boyles (winner).

ABOVE: Instrumental senior runner-up Peter Greenwood, tuba.

ON November 19 and 20 'Music In the Vale' held its annual competition for singers and instrumentalists aged eight to 23 years old at Stanwell School, Penarth.

This year there were two singing adjudicators: Patricia O'Neill, who has been a vocal tutor at Cardiff University and Howells School, Llandaff; and Elizabeth Donovan, who was the 1998 Music In the Vale winner for Young Singer of the Year and who represented Wales in the BBC Cardiff *Singer of the World* in 2003.

The two instrumental adjudicators were Gwyn L Williams, who has been senior music producer for Radio 3 in Wales, chief executive of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, and Lucy Robinson, who has an international reputation for her research into Baroque music and was head of postgraduate studies and research at the RWCMD.

Competitors will be invited to perform at a Christmas fundraising concert at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on December 21 at 7:30pm. This year's gala concert will be held in All Saints' Church, Penarth on January 22 at 2pm. For more information, visit *www.musicinthevale.org.uk*.

ABOVE: Instrumental senior group: Harrison Williams, piano (winner); Idony Perrett, clarinet (HC); adjudicator Gwyn L Williams; Peter Greenwood, tuba (runner-up); Nathaniel Alcolado, vibrophone (HC).

ABOVE: Young singer young senior group: Seren Hamilton, Manon Ogwen Parry (runner-up), Llinos Haf Jones (winner), Charlotte Adams (highly commended), Cerys Baker.

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VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Faith in youngsters is rewarded as Cowbridge out-pace Tonyrefail RFC

ON a sunny, cool afternoon last Saturday Cowbridge welcomed Tonyrefail RFC to the Athletic Ground.An important game for both sides, Tonyrefail (eighth) just two places and four points above Cowbridge and just nine points separating third and tenth.

Tonyrefail kicked off with the sun behind them and within a couple of minutes Cowbridge had their first scoring opportunity when flanker Rhod Walker charged down a kick – only for the ball to roll into touch a few metres out.

A good run by Kieron David minutes later again gave Cowbridge another opening which they were unable to turn into points.

Tonyrefail began to dominate and a missed penalty was followed by some telling breaks from their No 10, who was a threat throughout.

However, after 15 minutes Ton received a yellow card. Taking the penalty quickly, Cowbridge stormed into the visitors' 22 and a clever kick from No 10 Alex Guard saw centre Johnny Graham touch down under the posts. Full back Ben Wright converted.

Despite the lead, Cowbridge's play was a little disjointed at times with Tonyrefail benefiting from several penalties. However, there were signs towards the end of the half that Cowbridge were beginning to click.

Inspired by great hit from hooker Craig Boxall, Cowbridge appeared to score a try but were held up just over the line and, with seconds to go, Wright just missed a penalty from the half way.

Half-time Cowbridge 7 Tonyrefail 0

The first 10 minutes of the second half were fairly quiet but the Cowbridge pack was beginning to dominate.

The back row of Walker, captain Richie Howson and the powerful Dan Holder were proving quite a handful and, with good lineout ball from Jack Anderson and Dave Breed, it seemed just a matter of time before a second try arrived.

A chip from livewire scrum half Hywel Williams resulted in Cowbridge securing turnover ball and this was spun along the backs for winger James Phillips to sprint over in the corner.

Tonyrefail were next to score with a converted try by their dangerous No 10.

Ben Wright extended the Cowbridge lead with a penalty for a high tackle on barnstorming prop Dai Popham. Wright had two further penalty attempts, the second hitting the post from the half-way.

Cowbridge continued to press, with Williams and Guard controlling the game, and a flowing move through centres Pat George and Graham released Phillips, but he was unfortunately adjudged to have a foot in touch.

Cowbridge continued to attack with Adam Dix having a few good runs down the right wing but it was Dan Holder who scored the third try, bursting through the Tonyrefail defence from a lineout.

With just six minutes to go, so we thought, Cowbridge went all out for the fourth try and a bonus point and did not disappoint.

Following a penalty into touch 10 metres out, a good take by Jack Anderson was followed by scrum half Williams completely bamboozling the Tonyrefail forwards with a dummy as he strolled through the middle of the lineout to score under the post in the dying seconds. Wright added the extras.

Except it was not the dying seconds – not even the dying minutes – as the ref added about 15 minutes. Where that came from nobody knows.

Tonyrefail managed a consolation converted try and eventually the final whistle blew.

Final score Cowbridge 27 Tonyrefail 14.

After a fairly disjointed first 15 minutes this was a fine performance from a young (with a few exceptions!) Cowbridge side who played with great confidence.

The forwards really took the game to Tonyrefail and there was some lovely running rugby from the backs. Coach Dan Williams was delighted. Well done boys.

This Saturday we travel to Caerau Ely, with no game the following Saturday and on the 17th, we take the long journey to high flying Llantwit Major for the last game of 2016. The first game of 2017 is home against Canton on January 7.

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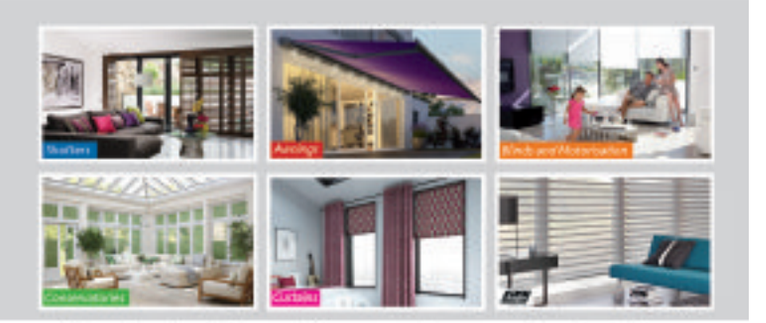

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The number of local paid-for newspapers continues to decline. Here, we keep you up to date with the...

LATEST NEWSPAPER SALES FIGURES!

The GEM	45,489	Priceless
Barry & District News	3,929	Paid 50p
Penarth Times	4,132	Paid 50p
South Wales Echo	19,158	Paid 65p
Western Mail	18,641	Paid 80p
Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	14,789	Paid £1.50

The GEM's weekly figure includes door to door delivery and numerous popular outlets from Penarth to Porthcawl
Latest Data available
That's why advertisers continue to enjoy a positive response from us - The GEM is 'Priceless'!
Remember - we distribute over 45,000 complimentary copies of The GEM throughout the Vale, Bridgend & Porthcawl every week – packed with all the content that makes a community newspaper really worth reading!
(Figures correct as of April 2016)

Family Notices

PROSSER
Peggy

Peacefully at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry on November 21st, Peggy, formerly of Main Street, Treharne Road and the Gibbonsdown area. Beloved wife of Harold, loving mum to June, cherished nan of Janine and David. An adored great nan and great great nan.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Peggy is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service and committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, December 7th at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Peggy's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations to support Dementia UK.

CALLARD
Michael (Mick)

Passed away peacefully at home on 25th November.

Much loved by all his family and friends.

Funeral to be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 7th December at 11.30am. No flowers. Donations to Tenovus.

RUCK
Alfred Claude 'Tex'

Sadly passed away on 20th November 2016, loved and missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service to be held on Thursday, 8th December at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park & Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 11.15am. Family flowers only.

Donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan, c/o A. G. Adams & Sons, tel 01446 735400.

STAPLETON
Brian

Passed away peacefully on November 25 in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Brian of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Beryl and much loved father of Dean, Andrea and Kay.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Tuesday, December 6 in St. Illtud's Church at 2.15pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

MYLCHREEST
David

Peacefully on November 9 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a very short illness, Dave of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Beryl, dearly loved father of Alison and Beverley, a much loved grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, December 5, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MATTHEWS
Brinley Allin

Unexpectedly on November 13th at home - Brin, beloved husband of the late Fay. Much loved dad to Gwynneth, Mervyn, Bronwen, Eirwen, Allin and Gareth. A fun grandad and great grandad.

Service to take place at St David's Church, Barry on Monday, December 5th at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service to Barry Town Football Club.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service on 01446 407962

WILDE
Alban Edward

Peacefully in hospital on November 20, Alban, aged 87 years, late of Stembridge Court, Llandow, loving husband of Gwenyth, much loved dad of Susan, Frances and Glenys, father-in-law of John, Alan and Martin. Adored bampa and great bampie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, December 6, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to the Ed Evans Foundation, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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Patricia Trudgian

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Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family x.

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Acknowledgements

HEATHFIELD
Brian

Brenda, Adele, Adrian and families would like to express their thanks to all those who attended the service and also for the wonderful cards, flowers, tributes, love and support during this difficult time. We were truly overwhelmed.

We would like to thank Father Kevin Lake for his comforting words and prayers. Also, Lyndsay Ellis and staff at Vale Funeral Services for their efficient and caring funeral arrangements.

Finally, a huge thank you to all that have contributed so far to the memorial fund set up in Brian's honour.

Although we have exceeded the initial target donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Brian-Heathfield-Memorial-Fund.

WEBSTER
Colin

Etta and family would like to express their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards and messages of sympathy received during their recent bereavement.

Special thanks to all who attended the service and to the Reverend Canon David Brunning whose kind words were a comfort to the family, and also to the staff of W.A. Brown & Son, Funeral Directors.

MATHESON
Gordon

Tracey and the children would like to thank family, friends and colleagues who travelled far and near to attend Gordon's funeral on 21st October, and expressed messages of sympathy.

Special thanks to those close who lend support throughout this difficult time. Also, special thanks to Father Anthony and Reverend Joy Birkin for officiating and W. James and Sons, Funeral Directors.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations
50th
Wedding Anniversary

.yn & Carol Willmot
On 30th November

We look forward to celebrating with you, much love from Hywel, Louise, Amanda, Sam, Imogen, Thomas, Abigail, Isobel and Madeleine

Birth

Congratulations

Gareth & Kate Jamieson

on the birth of your beautiful son

Aaron Scott

Born 22nd November 2016.
Weighing 6lb 6oz.

Love & best wishes
all at The GEM
xxx

Birthdays

30!

Happy
30th Birthday
Louise Austin
for the 6th December
Have a nice day. See you soon.
Lots of love
Nanny Mave & Grampa Fred
xxx

JOHN PALMER
Happy 80th Birthday
(3/12/1936)
to my husband John
(still as handsome as when we first met).
All my love,
Norma xxx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
John Palmer
Happy 80th Birthday Dad!
Hope you enjoy your special day.
Love always
Wayne, Kathryn, Elliot, Lauren, Sophie & Dean xxx

John Palmer
Happy 80th Birthday Dad
on 3rd Decemb
Lots of love, Tracy, Brian, Ryan, Callum, Lucy, Nicole, Connor and great grand daughters Sophia and Gabriella xxx
80

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Application form and full job description can be obtained from The Clerk, Dinas Powys Community Council, Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AF, or **e-mail: theclerk@dinaspowys.org** or online **www.dinaspowys.org**. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: Midnight on Friday, 16th December 2016.

Interviews will be held during week commencing Monday, 16th January 2017.

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Am ffurflen gais a disgrifiad llawn o'r swydd cysylltwch â: Cyngor Cymuned Dinas Powys, Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Neuadd y Plwyf, Heol Britway, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AF, neu **ebostiwch:theclerk@dinaspowys.org** neu arlein **www.dinaspowys.org**. Ni dderbynnir CVs.

Dyddiad cau: Hanner nos Gwener, 16eg Rhagfyr 2016.

Cynhelir cyfweliadau yn ystod yr wythnos yn cychwyn ar: Llun, 16eg Ionawr 2017.

Mae Cyngor Cymuned Dinas Powys yn ymdrechu i fod yn gyflogydd cyfleoedd cyfartal ac mae'n gwahodd ceisiadau o bob adran o'r gymuned.

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of waste material stored on site since 1983 and the restoration of the land
Location:/Lleoliad: Meadowlands Estate, Drope Road, The Drope
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Drope

Listed Building Consent/
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01358/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: New single storey extension to rear of Top Lodge to facilitate a dedicated reception building at the entrance of UWC Atlantic College. Additionally, internal and external repairs to existing Top Lodge building. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding to front garden to accommodate new bike store
Location:/Lleoliad: Top Lodge, Atlantic College, St. Donats
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Top (East) Lodge to St. Donat's Castle inc. attached garden wall, Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01368/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey side extension converting existing garage and a single storey extension to the front of existing property. New wrap-around balcony to rear and side of the property
Location:/Lleoliad: April Rise, Church Lane, Welsh St. Donats
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Great House, Welsh St. Donats, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00080/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production, together with associated feed bins, hardstandings and access road
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00946/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing building and erection of a Class A1 Limited Assortment Discount foodstore (1,593 sq m gross, 1,140 sqm net sales) with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 6, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of waste material stored on site since 1983 and the restoration of the land
Location:/Lleoliad: Meadowlands Estate, Drope Road, The Drope

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00080/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production, together with associated feed bins, hardstandings and access road
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00946/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing building and erection of a Class A1 Limited Assortment Discount foodstore (1,593 sq m gross, 1,140 sqm net sales) with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 6, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 1 December, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Bonus point win for Barry in a 'spirited' display

AFTER a week without a game because of the Autumn International matches and cup games it was back to business for the Barry 1st XV last Saturday when they entertained Old Illtydians RFC at the Reservoir Field for an East Central league 2 fixture.

After a shaky start to the season in which they lost their first three games, Barry have turned themselves around and won their last four games in the league so the expectations of the team and their supporters was naturally quite high and they were not to be disappointed.

In cold breezy conditions, it was the visitors who started the better by attacking and putting early pressure on the home fifteen from the kick off.

It did look for the first five minutes or so of the game that they might take an early lead, only to be denied by some resolute tackling by Barry and long, relieving kicks by half back pair Kyle Barros and Einan Scott.

After a pointless 18 minutes or so of play, it was Barry who struck the first blow. A long probing kick by Kyle Barros put the Old Illtydians full back under pressure and he sliced his returning kick into touch about 10 yards or so from his own line.

From the resulting line out a take and drive by the Barry pack pushed the visitors pack over their own line enabling Luke O'Sullivan to touch down for the first try of the day which Kyle Barros duly converted.

With 7 points on the board Barry started to attack and put a lot of pressure on the visitors. However, in their eagerness to defend this surge by Barry some of the Old Iltydians became overzealous and five minutes later a penalty was awarded to Barry which unfortunately just shaved the upright in the swirling wind.

The Barry fifteen were now in top gear and continued their attack to try and exploit the visitor's weaknesses.

The pressure paid off in the 25th minute when after what can only be described as a bit of a melee behind the Old Illtydians post, Luke O'Sullivan ended up with the ball in his hands and was able to ground the ball for Barry's and his second try. Scrum-half Kyle Barros was able to add the extra points to put Barry into a fourteen point lead.

No one can be sure what the visitors captain had to say to his team after this second score but whatever it was, it had a dramatic effect because they started to play with gusto and put the Barry defence on the back foot for the next 10 minute period of play and came close to scoring on a number of occasions.

However, the Barry fifteen were resolute in their defence and stopped them time and time again. This was the pattern of play up to the half time whistle with Barry able to keep their 14 - 0 score.

The second half started from the kick off with a dangerously high tackle on the Barry captain James Hadfield which was an obvious yellow card, if not more to all those who witnessed it, the one exception being the referee, who awarded a scrum to Old Illtydians for a knock on by James. A strange decision indeed.

Minutes later he showed a yellow card to Barry centre Tom Perry for knocking the ball out of one of the opponents arms when he had clearly ripped it out which is all fair in love and war.

If that was not bad enough 5 minutes later another yellow card was shown to hooker Alyn Evans.

With 15 playing 13 it was only going to be a matter of time before Old Illtydians took advantage of the situation and they did exactly that when their left wing went over in the corner for their first try of the game after 15 minutes of the second half. The conversion was unsuccessful.

The expectation at this stage of the game was that Barry would find it difficult to play attractive rugby with two men on the bench but this was not the case as they seemed to step up a gear and make numerous attacks on the visitors' line only to be held up time and time again.

Their perseverance did pay off however after 25 minutes of the half when scrum half Kyle Barros scored Barry's third try cutting through the defence from a five-metre scrum.

His conversion attempt from wide out was unsuccessful in the swirling wind. With the score at 19 - 5 in Barry's favour the call was for a possible bonus point win but Old Illtydians had other ideas and seemed determined to deny them the extra point with very determined defensive play which kept Barry out time and time again.

After making substitutions at the 65 minute mark Barry hoped that fresh legs would help them get that elusive fourth try and bonus point which had been denied them in the previous match against Abercynon.

It proved to be a good move because with five minutes of the match to go, centre Tom Perry crashed over the line after a run in from 25 yards out to secure the elusive bonus point. The conversion by Einan Scott was successful, giving Barry a 26–5 score with a couple of minutes left on the clock.

Most of those watching would have understandably thought that was that, but Old Illtydians had other ideas and pressed hard in the closing minutes to increase their score.

Their determination paid off and after some uncharacteristic sloppy defensive play by Barry, they were able to score a second try which was converted giving a final score of 26–12 in Barry's favour.

Considering the team had not had a game for two weeks this was a spirited display by Barry and they can be very pleased with their performance. The win put them in fourth place in the division with a game in hand over two of the teams above them.

Team: Dave Taylor, Alyn Evans, James Hollister, Rob Williams, Glyn Jones, Luke O Sullivan, James Hadfield, Callum Scott, Kyle Barros, Einan Scott, Wayne Jones, Brad White, Tom Perry, Danny Ryan, Tiernan Scott.

Replacements: Rhys O Sullivan, John Miles, Jamie Oaten, Ashley Adams and Tom Lee

Next Match: East Central League 2 on Saturday December 3rd versus Llanishen away at Usk Road LLanishen K.O 2.30pm.

Barry RFC Mega4 Lottery Numbers for Saturday 26th November 2016: 3, 7, 16 and 21.

DH

Llantwit Under-13s turn on the style at Llantrisant

THE under-13s Llantwit squad travelled to Llantrisant on Sunday for their weekly rugby fixture.

With games called off the weekend before due to flooded pitches, the players were looking forward to a run out.

The Llantwit team started well and put early points on the board with a driving run from Louis who then managed to offload before the contact to Lewis I, who used his pace to outsprint the defence and touch the ball down right between the posts.

The Llantwit team let their foot off the gas and allowed Llantrisant to come back at them. A strong run from the Llantrisant winger, coupled with some missed tackles for the Llantwit team, saw the home side level the points.

This seemed to focus the Llantwit side and they steadily took control of the game and were able to score again before half time.

The second half saw Llantwit Major up the tempo and take the game to the home team. Strong driving runs from the forwards and good passing and moving from the backs saw Louis add three tries, and Will F two of his own.

The second try scored by Lewis I was an absolute beauty, involving many players, with the play starting deep within the Llantwit half.

Nearly half the team were involved in the try which saw player after player gain ground but offload as contact was made to keep the ball alive. There were at least three players who could have taken the ball over the whitewash in the end to score the play of the game.

The strong boot of Lewis Morgan also added conversion points to make the final score a fantastic 43-17 to the visiting side.

Squad: Josh, Ioan, Lewis M, Lewis I, Jac, Aaron, Nathan, Iestyn, Sean, Tyler, Will F, Will H, Dafydd, Sam, Luke, Tom, Louis, James.

Annabel Ingram

Tae Kwon Do juniors compete in Derby Arena

THE torrential rain did nothing to dampen Team JSTKD's spirits at the TAGB British Tae Kwon Do Championships on November 20 at Derby Arena.

The team, comprising Menna Burmingham, Josh and Sean Edwards, Alisha Roberts, Zak Grinter, Alex Munn and Viv Wilfred, took part in the largest martial arts competition in Europe, which attracts around 1,200 competitors from all areas of the UK.

First to take to the floor was Menna, who looked cool and confident as she performed a complex black belt pattern with her trademark accuracy and flair. In a very close contest, resulting in less than a mark between the top places, she claimed the bronze and got the team off to a flying start.

Brothers Sean and Josh both gave it everything in their respective junior black belt events. Sean made it through the first round easily but just missed out in the next, while big brother Josh had to bow out in round one ,despite treating everyone to an impressive flying side kick along the way.

Over in the colour belts area, Alisha, who made the final of the girls green belt patterns earlier in the day, put on a powerful display in the girls' lightweight green belt division and was very unlucky to have to settle for bronze.

Meanwhile, for the boys, Zak kept his composure to out-manoeuvre his opponent and was rewarded with a deserved bronze in the boys' peewee yellow belt event.

In the boys' lightweight green belt contest, Alex looked certain to be heading for the medals but after a questionable decision, unfortunately left the event earlier than his performance would suggest.

Unusually, Viv was the only adult taking part for JSTKD and was competing in the executive ladies lightweight blue and red belt division. She found herself facing a much more experienced opponent but was determined to make the best of the situation. She battled on to take some points and although not enough to claim victory, she was able to add a silver to the team haul.

JSTKD has students from three years up to adults. Visit www.jstkd.co.uk for full details.

TONDU RFC CUT LOOSE AGAINST NANTYMOEL

TONDU 33 NANTYMOEL 7 by Mike Sully

Matthew Davies makes ground with the ball, with Paul Smithson in support. Photos by Gareth Anthony.

Josh Tatchell goes to ground with Jon Penpraze in support.

IT took 19 minutes for this game to spring into life.

Both sides had early chances but after strong pressure from the home side, flanker Matthew Morgan gave Tondu the lead with a try from a five-metre line out, Josh Tatchell adding the conversion from wide out.

Despite further pressure from Tondu, the score stayed at 7-0 at the break. A scrum five early in the second half saw veteran No 8 Nathan Strong extend the lead with a deserved try. Tatchell again added the extra points.

Tondu were now in control of this local derby and a quick tap penalty resulted in right wing Sam Grabham sailing over in the corner for Tondu's third.

Nantymoel then scored what was already a consolation try through wing Andrew Thomas, converted by Ryan Davies before the home side clinched a bonus point with a wonderful try for captain Hywel Davies, resulting from some great handling from the backs. Tatchell converted from under the posts.

Tondu sealed a memorable win in the 80th minute. After further forward pressure, their backs were let loose for Grabham to grab his second try under the posts.

In the end, it was an emphatic 33-7 win for the Waterwheelers that should keep them top of the pile.

Vale of Glamorgan Senior Football League round-up

AFTER a two week break, the Vale league returned with a fine weekend of football.

The big story of the day was in Division Two as leaders Cadoxton Imps finally saw the end of their 100 per cent record as they were held by second bottom Rhoose B 1-1.

This ended Imps' 11 game winning run, although they still remain unbeaten and 7 points clear at the top of the second division.

Elsewhere in division two, Barry Saints routed Barry Albion 8-1 to stay in second position while Penarth Town B climbed into third with a 4-0 victory over FC Pumas B.

BVFC dropped to fourth as they made it four games without a win as Island Marine B thumped them 4-0.

The Division One title race continues to heat up with only 2 points separating the top four teams. Barry Athletic B became the new leaders this week and in some style as they smashed Cadoxton Athletic 7-1.

FC Pumas came into the weekend as the pace setters but they were defeated 2-1 by fourth place SP Billy to drop to third, as Barry Belgrade stayed second with a 3-0 victory over Cadoxton Barry.

Dockers made it three games undefeated as they edged out Sully in a nine-goal thriller 5-4. Glenbrook finally had something to cheer about as they notched their first league win of the season, 4-3 against Cardiff Airport B, the win lifts Glenbrook off the bottom with Airport replacing them at the foot of the table.

The Premier Division only had two fixtures this weekend with teams involved in the SWFA Intermediate Cup.

Island Marine thumped Tynewydd 5-1, making it an impressive four wins out of their last five in the league. Barry Athletic went fourth with a 3-0 away win over Dinas Powys Athletic.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup, there were four Vale league clubs in action. Unfortunately, it wasn't a great weekend for our teams with only one progressing.

Vale United tasted their first defeat of the season as they crashed out 7-3 at home to to Bridgend league side Llangeinor.

Cowbridge Town were edged out 3-2 by Taff Ely Rhymney Valley league side Nelson Cavaliers.

Rhoose were eliminated but put up a tremendous effort against SWFA Alliance League Division One side Penrhiwceiber Con Athletic losing 3-2.

St Athan are now the only Vale League club remaining after they won 4-1 against Treorchy to advance to the last 16.

SWFA Alliance League Division Two side Cardiff Airport are the other Vale based club still involved in the competition that they got to the final of last season, after they won 5-3 against Fairwater.

Next week's games of the weekend look like being the West Vale derby in the Premier Division as Cowbridge Town host St Athan, the top two in Division One clash as Barry Athletic B play Barry Belgrade, and it's second vs third in Division Two with Barry Saints facing Penarth Town B.

Check back here next week for a full round up.

HD

Agony for Bridgend Ath in close encounter against Maesteg RFC

IN National League Div 1 West Central, Maesteg claimed the bragging rights with a narrow 8-7 derby win in an uninspiring lunchtime kick off at the Bridgend Ford Brewery Field.

The first half was shorn of any real quality rugby with both sides previously this season turning on much better displays.

Both sides were error strewn and having possession regularly turned over.

The Athletic did have an effective driving maul from distance, but were unable in the first period to replicate it near the visitors try line.

The half finished with the Athletic camped inside the Maesteg 22, but lacking a cutting edge to capitalise on their opportunities. This resulted in a pointless first half.

The Athletic supporters thought they had an early second half try when centre Michael Hathaway broke clean through, but was ankle tapped 5 metres from the try line.

Maesteg responded with a quick tap penalty 30 metres from the Athletic try line and swift passing among the backs created an overlap for wing Steffan Hnatiuk to cross in the corner.

Outside half Laurence Howley increased the lead to 8-0 within two minutes with a well struck 40 metre penalty. This stung the Athletic into life and they forced a line-out 10 metres from the Maesteg try line.

This time the driving maul came to fruition with captain and flanker Ben Howe being driven over the try line. Full back Dan Howells converted to reduce the deficit.

Unfortunately this four minute flurry of points was not replicated further during the match.

The Athletic dominated possession and territory but too often were turned over in possession or took wrong options.

Howley was unlucky with another long range penalty which struck the upright, while the Athletic in the closing minutes were also unable to kick two long range penalties to win the game.

Final result: Bridgend Athletic 7 Maesteg 8.

For the Athletic Stuart Edbrook and Sean Williams stood out in the pack, while Michael Hathaway and Dan Howells were the pick of the backs.The Athletic would like to thank regular club supporter Mr John Naisbitt of Cotacabin Ltd for sponsoring the fixture.

This Saturday December 3 the Athletic entertain the other Div 1 West Maesteg side Maesteg Harlequins.

Adrian Burt
adrianburt2@aol.com

IMAGES by GLENNSPORTS

RIGHT: Ath's Chris Walker on the charge.

Tom Morgan about to re-cycle the ball.

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PACY PENARTH PROVIDE A REAL TEST FOR LLANTWIT MAJOR'S FIRST TEAM

LLANTWIT MAJOR First XV retained both their unbeaten home record and their second place in the league as they won a tough game 33-26 against Old Penarthians at the Recreation Ground.

With Old Pens struggling with player availability they opted for passive scrums minutes prior to kick off and in doing so took the sting out of the Llantwit game plan – as their scrummage has been a big asset to their form this season.

With the visitors then reduced to playing with the bare 15 you would have thought the advantage would have been with the home team but this was far from the truth, as Old Pens showed that they are an exceptional attacking team and arguably have the best back line that Llantwit have faced so far this season.

As the game kicked off in bright but chilly autumnal weather, Llantwit tried to catch the visitors cold as they tested the Old Pens back three with some big kicks from outside-half Josh Austin.

It soon became apparent though that they were more than up to the task as they counter-attacked brilliantly from deep inside their own half, taking possession right up to the Llantwit line and eventually coming away with three points from a penalty kick.

Llantwit soon got on the scoreboard when, from the resulting kick off, a dropped catch was quickly seized upon by speedster Luke Dawes on the wing as he hacked the ball on and then out-sprinted the cover defence to the bobbling ball, scoring in the corner.

The try was converted with a big kick from scrum-half Ryan Evans.

Old Pens replied with another penalty kick as the home side's penalty count grew. After some tit for tat possession, two big runs from flankers Gareth Watts and Rob Carter deep into the Old Pens half set up a brilliant back line move across the pitch to allow Rhys Dixon to show his pace by going over in the top corner, converted with another huge kick from Evans.

The next try was a tremendous piece of individualism by flanker and man of the match Gareth Watts.

Taking the ball on the 10-metre line, he spotted a gap in the Old Pens defence and like a rampaging rhino charged through and set off on a beautiful angled run to round the defending winger before changing his angle and dummying the fullback to race over under the posts.

Watts for a big man shows remarkable speed but also has a rugby brain in his running game.

As half-time approached the Old Pens got themselves back into the game with an unconverted score of their own; the half finishing at 21-11.

In the second half, Old Pens were soon back on the scoreboard as Llantwit's discipline once again let them down, conceding another three points.

The penalty count against the home side was disturbing, conceding over 15 penalties by the third quarter – something the coaches will no doubt be debriefing through the week.

Old Pens then scored another try with their back line ripping the home team apart with a fine try which, thankfully for Llantwit, was not converted as the kick rebounded of one of the uprights.

Old Pens then missed out on rounding off another good back line move with a try thanks to a great cover tackle by wing Luke Dawes.

Llantwit then began to exert some pressure with some hard running by forwards and backs, with centre Rhys Davies and old stalwart Shaun Shea to the fore.

The pressure eventually led to Gareth Watts diving over from close quarters for his second try, converted by Evans

This was then followed up with a fine try with forwards and backs combining well, finished off with a strong run from loose forward Rob Carter, typically leaving several defenders in his wake as he stormed over.

Evans then missed the conversion which was probably his simplest of the day to marginally tarnish an otherwise excellent performance with the boot.

With less than 10 minutes to go and the score at 33-19, it was time to close the game out. But no, true to form Llantwit imploded with the traditional yellow card to keep their supporters on tenterhooks for the final whistle.

This time replacement Donovan Stoppell had his marching orders after only being on the field a few minutes for infringing at the ruck.

This obviously gave Old Pens a life line to snatch the game from the home side, which they duly attempted to do, making repeated attacks into the Llantwit half, eventually driving a maul over for a converted try.

This led to a nervous last few minutes with just seven points separating the teams. The Llantonians though, managed to hold off the Old Pens attacks to take the spoils at 33-26 and remain second in the league.

Next week Llantwit are on the road again as they travel up to the Rhondda Valley to take on the Mighty Ducks as they face Wattstown RFC in the league.

The Llantonians though will be more interested in monkeys than ducks as they will be hoping to get one off their backs – their poor away form in the Valleys, having not won a game north of the M4 for some considerable time.

Kick off is back to the standard time of 2:30pm. The team bus will be leaving the clubhouse at 12:15pm with supporters welcome to travel with the team.

There has been a lot of interest in the Monmouth cup game the following weekend on Saturday, December 10, so the club will be running a supporters bus or minibus.

If you wish to book a seat, put your name down on the list behind the bar in the clubhouse or you can phone through on 01446 792276. **AH**

Brian Lee highlights Welsh Grand National winners

THE Welsh Grand National takes place at Chepstow on December 27. The last time a horse actually trained in Wales won the Welsh Grand National was in 1965, when Mr Glanville Jones's *Norther* was successful (recent winners *Le Beau Bai* in 2011 and *Mountainous* 2013 and 2015 were trained at Presteigne a couple of miles from the Welsh border).

A former winning Welsh point-to-pointer, *Norther* was trained by Denzil Jenkins of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. During the war as Sqdn Ldr Jenkins DFC, he had commanded a squadron of fighter pilots and had 192 flying operations to his credit.

Ridden between-the-flags by Rhys Williams, father of present day National Hunt trainer Evan Williams, who has come close to training the winner himself on a couple of occasions, *Norther* was usually ridden by Ken White but he had been claimed to ride *Palas Main,* who was to finish fifth.

Led over the last by *Quintina*, who was trying to land a notable double for Fred Winter, who had saddled Jay Trump to win the Aintree National, *Norther,* partnered by the legendary Terry Biddlecombe, stayed on gallantly to beat Fred Winter's charge by a length with *Dark Venetian* pipping little *Limonali* for third place.

The following year, *Norther* finished seventh in the Aintree Grand National and was runner-up in the Scottish Grand National. A fine jumper, he was to return to point-to-pointing and had had only one fall since 1966 when at the age of 15, he came down ate at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Steeplechases.

Sadly, he somehow later broke his jaw when grazing in a field and had to be put down.

Brian Lee is the author of The Welsh Grand National From Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice *(published by The History Press at £12.99).*

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, November 22, a full programme of league matches in the Cowbridge Darts League was completed.

The Edmondes C beat the Edmondes A 6-3. In this match, Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) joined the 'three-dart-out 100 or higher' club, just, by hitting a 100 and Noyle Burt (Edmondes C) also hit a high out of 53.

In the all-Farmers Arms fixture in a closely contested match, the Hairy Farmers defeated the Farmers Arms 5-4.

In this match Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) hit his second 180 of the season and Simon Reader (Hairy Farmers) hit a 96 two-dart-out (treble 20 followed by double 18).

The Edmondes B beat the Red Lion 9-0 and in the battle for second place, the Six Bells Inn defeated the Highwayman Inn 5-4.

The Llanharry Workingmens club was unable to raise a team, so the Victoria Inn was awarded the nine points.

Present league standings, after nine weeks, are: Edmondes B (60 points), Six Bells Inn (53), Highwayman Inn (51), Edmondes A (43), Edmondes C (41), Hairy Farmers (40), Llanharry and Farmers Arms (38), Victoria Inn (36) and Red Lion (5).

Next week (Tuesday, December 6) a full programme of league matches is scheduled. The Hairy Farmers hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Edmondes C hosts the Red Lion, Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes A hosts the Victoria Inn and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes B.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*. **PJT**

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12 MINI Countryman Cooper 1.6 Diesel All 4 In white with black roof, chilli pack etc, 78,000 miles 4x4 at **£8,995**

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64 RENAULT Zoe Dynamique Intens 5-Dr Automatic In white, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, electric hatch ....**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Energy 3-Dr In white, 20,000 miles, one owner **£5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SE TSi 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at **£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax **£5,995**

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08 CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR Auto In met muave, 85,000 mile 7-seater **£3,995**

10 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique TomTom 5-Dr In red, 76,000 miles with sat-nav..... **£3,695**

09 FORD Focus 2.0 TD 136 Zetec Automatic Estate In met-blue, 102,000 miles, excellent condition..... **£3,695**

07 PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 Automatic In silver with black leather, 31,000 mile convertable at .. **£3,695**

62 SUZUKI Alto 1.0 SZ3 5-Dr In silver, 60,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance **£3,495**

61 CITROEN C1 1.0 VT 3-Dr In white, 47,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **REDUCED TO £3,295**

58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport Rider 3-Dr In red, 56,000 miles with alloys, a/c etc **£3,295**

59 CITROEN C3 1.4 VTR 5-Dr In black, 54,000 miles, low insurance **£2,995**

56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Automatic In silver, 34,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc **£2,995**

08 MITSUBISHI Colt 'Black Hawk' 1.5 Turbo In black with black leather, 69,000 miles..... **£2,695**

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BAKER BOYS BURN BRISTOL AS HOCKEY CLUB GOES UNBEATEN

PENARTH Hockey Club enjoyed an unbeaten weekend as victories for the promotion-chasing first and second XIs were complemented by a first GoCrea8 League point for the steadily-improving Fourths.

PENARTH 4-3 Bristol University 'A'

Having lost their first match of the season at UWE the previous weekend, Penarth's 1st XI were keen to exact revenge on Bristol's other student cohort at Stanwell, but could only do so thanks to the back-breaking efforts of 'player-groundsmen' Ben Croxall, Jack Jopson and Graeme Jones, who cleared gallons of standing water from the pitch after torrential overnight and early morning rain.

With the 4th XI having shown that the pitch was playable, the Bears' match began on schedule, albeit amid persistently horrible conditions, but the early exchanges were dominated by the away team, who looked dangerous in possession and well-organised across the field.

It was something of a surprise, therefore, that Penarth took the lead against the run of play, stand-in captain Chris Baker picking up a midfield ball from returning leader Tom Haran, before beating a number of students and firing a backhand shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle.

Despite the goal, the University continued to look threatening, and found an equaliser with a very well-placed flick from a penalty corner just five minutes later. Having been pegged back, the Bears started to gain more control of the game, and responded in kind as Baker added his, and the team's second.

This time Croxall was the provider, dribbling his way through opposition tackles before Baker's first time shot stunned the goalkeeper and found the bottom corner.

A third goal would prove important for Penarth, and came after 25 minutes, following some patient build-up play from Rich John, Marcus Powell and Haran at the back. This time, as the Bears ventured forward, it was Rich Baker who expertly fired his reverse-stick shot into the corner to give the goalkeeper no chance.

The half ended with just a single goal separating the teams, as some ill-discipline from Penarth just before the break allowed the students to convert another penalty corner, but the home side were determined to make amends after the break and started the second period at a furious pace, dispossessing the students near their own goal and winning a first penalty corner of the game. Despite not taking their chance to extend the advantage, Penarth certainly looked the most threatening and started to re-establish control over the game.

Discipline – or the lack of it – continued to plague the Vale side, however, and, having been reduced to ten players, they saw their lead wiped out completely as the students seized the chance to even things up at 3-3 with 20 minutes to play.

Penarth responded positively, however, with numerous forays into the attacking third. Heroically, Joe Thomas weaved his way through the opposing sticks in a crowded 'D' before finding Chris Baker at the far post, and the captain fired in his third of the game to put the Bears back in front.

For the final 10 minutes, the hosts remained strong defensively, holding on for an important three points to remain near the summit of Conference North.

Goalscorers: Chris Baker (3), Rich Baker.

Swansea City 'B' 1-6 PENARTH 'A'

THE 2nd XI travelled to face Swansea City 'B' looking for a fourth consecutive win knowing that they needed to maintain their impressive run of form if they were to keep up with the top two in De Cymru 1.

A growing injury list and several late drop-outs meant that some familiar faces returned to the team sheet for the first time this season, with last season's league-winning captain Matt Birch filling in at the unfamiliar position of centre back and 3rd XI captain Dave Watkins reclaiming his erstwhile centre forward role.

As with the rest of south Wales, the conditions in Swansea were awful and the game started under ominous skies, but that proved no deterrent to the visitors, who made their now customary quick start and pressed forward to test the home goalkeeper several times in the opening exchanges.

Having been rebuffed early on, the breakthrough finally came midway through the first half, as fantastic work from Tom Parkinson and Chris McCarthy created the chance for Watkins to apply a deft touch and guide the ball past the 'keeper.

With their tails up, Penarth's lead was doubled soon after, as a well-worked penalty corner routine was finished off by Chris McCarthy, but the strike coincided with the heavens opening and torrential rain made it difficult to play flowing hockey thereafter as the pitch became increasingly waterlogged.

The Bears' half-time talk focused on playing to the conditions and killing off the game with a third goal, and they did not have to wait long before Watkins applied another smart finish to a well-constructed attack. Phil Lane quickly continued his goal-scoring streak by adding a fourth with a powerful strike from the top of the 'D' but, to their credit, Swansea did not give up and kept pushing for a consolation goal.

That eventually came with 10 minutes to go, as the ball was forced over the line in a goalmouth scramble to deny goalkeeper Adam Putt and the back four the clean sheet their performances deserved.

Despite time running out, Penarth pushed for extra goals that could prove important later in the season. Number five came as Sam Docherty and Sam Chick linked up to feed Sam Salisbury, who rounded the 'keeper and, with the goal gaping… hit the post. Fortunately, the ball rebounded straight back to the young striker, who finished at the second bite of the cherry.

The scoring was rounded off by Lane to give Penarth a deserved 6-1 victory, and the total could have been more had it not been some unbelievable saves from the young Swansea 'keeper in the second half.

The win sees Penarth move to within three points of the promotion places, with a couple of close, but winnable, games coming up before the Christmas break.

Goalscorers: Dave Watkins (2), Phil Lane (2), Chris McCarthy, Sam Salisbury.

PENARTH 'C' 2-2 Gwent 'B'

HAVING arrived at Stanwell wondering whether their match would go ahead at all, let alone on time, the 4th XI got underway against Gwent 'B' with only a short delay to the scheduled midday push back.

With the fine performance against runaway league leaders Swansea University still fresh in their minds, but conscious of the heavy defeat at the hands of the visitors in their last encounter, the C-siders ensured that the opening quarter was competitive and cagey, with little to chose between the two teams.

As the half progressed, however, the discipline and concentration required to effectively play the system that had served the Vale side so well started to fade, allowing the skillful and experienced Gwent team to dominate.

Under greater amounts of pressure, Penarth were grateful for the calm authority of veteran Ian Brookfield and the agility of 'keeper Luke Williams to keep the scores level going into the half time break.

The second half began much as the first ended, with Gwent dominating possession but struggling to break down the organised Penarth defence. Growing in confidence, and with Tom Griffiths featuring more and more in the congested midfield, it was the home side who found an unexpected breakthrough, with Griffiths managing to get on to the end of a penetrating cross from skipper Nick Pratt to feed James Kerr-Smith, who calmly beat the Gwent 'keeper.

Fired up by an apparent sense of injustice amid claims that a Penarth foot had played a part in the opening goal, Gwent redoubled their efforts, forcing the home side backwards before being rewarded with two quick goals to take a narrow lead into the closing minutes.

With frustrations and tempers rising, umpires Colin Crayford and Neil Jewess had to be at their sharpest to keep a lid on things, but it was testimony to the combativeness of the Penarth side that they refused to lie down and pushed forward in search of an equaliser.

With minutes remaining, man-of-the-match Griffiths produced a fierce shot that gave the Gwent 'keeper little chance, levelling the scores 2-2, a fair result between two-closely matched sides that notably gave the C-siders their first point of the 2016-17 campaign.

Goalscorers: James Kerr-Smith, Tom Griffiths.

All four Penarth sides will be in league action this weekend, with the First again taking centre stage as they return to Bristol to take on Firebrands in a top four battle. While the senior side are on their travels, the Seconds, Thirds and Fourths will all be in action at Stanwell, taking on Neath (1.45pm start) Gwent 'B' (noon start) and Swansea City 'C' (3.30pm start) respectively.

Social

PRIOR to the weekend, Penarth Hockey Club will be hosting a quiz and curry night at Penarth Athletic Club on Friday, November 25 starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 a head and all are welcome.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

The Dinas Wolves put on a vintage display

DINAS WOLVES put in the most complete display of the season on Saturday morning as they all went about their jobs in a professional manner.

Kyle Booker opened the scoring cutting in from the right and slotting home from a tight angle.

The home side had piled on the pressure from the first whistle and struck the bar on a number of occasions and peppered the visitors' goal with some great shots.

The high tempo start carried on even after Cowbridge drew level. Callum Hewitson and then Bayley Harewood gave Dinas a commanding 3-1 lead at the break.

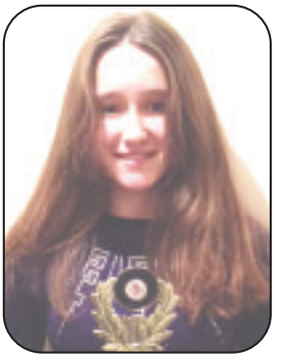
Making changes every 18 minutes throughout the match the level of intensity never dropped and the display from the Wolves was vintage.

Kyle Booker added the fourth as he struck an unstoppable pile driver from 25 yards following great team work. Robson Mallam was having a very strong game and deservedly walked off with the man of match award.

Dinas go again next week at Home to Sully looking to carry on from this performance.

Lee Saunders

BARRY GIRL WINS WELSH TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION



Freya Whittaker with her trophy.

A 12-YEAR-OLD from Barry, Freya Whittaker, has won the Welsh Gymnastics Regional Schools novice under-14 girls' trampolining competition.

It was held on November 20 at Cardiff Central Youth Club, and competition was strong with 35 girls competing.

She now qualifies to compete in the zonal competition in Cannock early next year.

Freya is a keen trampoline gymnast and has been competing for two years. Freya attends Bishop of Llandaff High School. Freya trains with Careau Vale Trampoline Club in Penarth.

It has been a good year for Freya; in May, she represented Wales in the trampoline and tumbling Regional NDP competition at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham.

Freya is also a keen horse rider and is generally to be found either practising her bouncing or at the stables.

Cowbridge Under 11s on song in Cardiff

THIS week Cowbridge U11s travelled with a near full complement of players to Cymru Caerdydd.

The squad were mixed for the morning's games which were reduced to one game each for the squad due to the late withdrawal of a second team scheduled to make up a round-robin series.

The first game started strongly for Cowbridge dominating in a number of areas of the game, strong running by George Tuckley from the pack opened the account for Cowbridge.

Joe Arentsen showed his quick feet and weaved his way through for two silky tries. James Collingridge nicked a further try, with the victory sealed by Josh Canning running free of the tackle and diving over in the corner.

Cymru Caerdydd picked up two of their own, final score 5-2 to Cowbridge.

The second game saw a new team for Cowbridge run out against the opposition, however Cymru were quicker to the ball at the breakdown and missed tackles by Cowbridge led to the opener going to hosts. Cowbridge came back strong, with running from the backline and Harry New taking the equaliser.

Jake Davies put Cowbridge further ahead although the game was soon on equal footing again with the home team scoring a quick reply.

Harry New showed great awareness and capitalised on a stray pass to intercept and score, with Osian Bruce further pushing Cowbridge ahead with a strong run from centre.

Despite a late effort by Cymru, Cowbridge ran the ball from the kick-off with good passing finding Harry Smith to run in from the wing. Final score 5-3 to Cowbridge. Well done again boys.

IC

VALE TRAINER ENJOYS A WINNING WEDNESDAY

VALE trainers John Flint, Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan all saddled winners last Wednesday writes Brian Lee.

My Bubba, a 10-1 chance trained by John Flint, took the closing All Weather 'Hands And Heels' Apprentice Series Handicap at Kempton Park.

Well ridden by 5lb claimer William Cox, four-year-old *My Bubba* got home by half-a-length from *Ravens Heart*.

At the jumps fixture at Hereford earlier in the day, Evan Williams' eight-year-old *Copper Birch* who carried top weight landed the Bet365 Conditional Jockeys' Training Series Handicap Chase by seven lengths from Nigel Twiston-Davies' *NorthAndSouth*.

Copper Birch was ridden by CJ Maher and won by seven lengths at odds of 5-2.

Later in the day, Tim Vaughan's six-year-old *Knight's Reward* took the Bet365 Novices' Handicap Chase over two miles when beating *YourHolidayIsOver* by one-and-a-half lengths.

Knight's Reward, a 5-2 chance, was partnered by Alan Johns who has been in brilliant form of late.

BRIAN LEE

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UNDER ARMOUR SERIES FINALE
WALES 27 - SOUTH AFRICA 13

THREE OUT OF FOUR CAN'T BE BAD, NOW…

Wales have a breathing space to get up to speed with the 'new way'

Pictures by Huw Evans Agency

ABOVE, left : a moment of magic as the outstanding Justin Tipuric breaks through for the try that sealed victory. ABOVE, right: Taulupe Faletau and Dan Biggar celebrate taking a rare southern hemisphere scalp, but the Welsh camp know they are still playing catch up with the world elite.

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

AS the final drama unfolded in a nervy autumn campaign whose talking point has been as much about coaches being under pressure to perform as the players, the Wales camp knew that Saturday's finale against an experimental South African side, on a cold November evening at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, could well have a significance far beyond the result itself.

Three narrow wins in the Under Armour Series, though a creditable feat, had failed to still widespread mutterings over below-par displays by a hesitant Welsh team seemingly caught between the defence-minded 'Warrenball' system that has served them so well in the past, and the urgent need to develop the more expansive, fast-attacking style of play now favoured by top tier teams worldwide.

"There is a tinge of disappointment in terms of the performance against Japan (when Wales won 33-30 the week before) and we want to put that right against South Africa. Not only are we looking to win this weekend, we want a performance to go with it," caretaker head coach Robert Howley had declared.

"The cohesion the players have shown over the four or five weeks, has been outstanding," he told a sceptical media. "It's our last chance of the autumn series and we want to transfer all the hard work we have put in into a big performance."

In the event, a clearly relieved Howley got his wish as an improved display disposed of what former England hooker-turned pundit Brian Moore scathingly described as *"the worst South African team I have ever seen,"* with a conclusive 27-13 victory, for the home squad to end the series on a high.

The Welsh camp had expressed itself *"pleased"* with the hard fought 24-20 win over Argentina in the second of the autumn tests and had opted for the same starting line-up against the ailing Springboks, apart from stinger victim Sam Warburton; with Dan Lydiate coming in on the blindside and No 8 Taulupe Faletau returning from injury among the replacements.

(He came on after the interval in place of the injured Lydiate and immediately made his usual telling contribution, linking up superbly with man-of-the-match openside, Justin Tipuric, who set the seal on a deserved victory with a breakaway converted try in the dying minutes).

To put the result in context, it was only the third win over South Africa in 31 attempts since the first clash at the old St Helens ground in Swansea on December 1, 1906 (which the tourists won 11-0).

In fact, Wales had to wait until 1999, before finally toppling the iron men from the veldt 26-19 at a half-filled Millennium Stadium still in the process of construction, just before the Rugby World Cup in June 1999, when an ecstatic crowd saw them avenge the humiliating 96-13 rout on tour in Pretoria the year before.

The only other success came following another tour to South Africa in June 2014, when Wales lost 38-16 and 31-30, only to bounce back in the autumn at Cardiff on November 29 that year to win 12-6.

Both camps went into Saturday's game against a background of supporters' disquiet at home – the hapless Springboks having lost seven of their previous 11 games, including a crushing defeat at the hands of arch rivals, New Zealand – and under-fire coach Alister Coetzee facing calls to be axed.

In what appeared to be a desperate attempt to avoid the inevitable, he fielded a mix'n'match selection of rawness and experience totalling just 260 caps, compared to Wales' 812 total.

Indeed, for ten minutes the gamble appeared to be paying off – with his makeshift team dominating the early exchanges, both in terms of possession and territory, winning a Welsh lineout and forcing a penalty at the scrum – to draw first blood and go three points up.

It was not the first time this autumn that Wales had fallen behind to an early sucker punch, but in this case, the South African lead was quickly snuffed out as the more experienced home team began to exert total control, and full back Leigh Halfpenny punished a spate of transgressions with the first of four penalties before the interval.

As the pressure told on increasingly desperate and inept opponents, their woes were compounded with a yellow card for a deliberate knock-on to break up a Welsh attack, which Halfpenny promptly punished with a fifth penalty helped by an upright.

When this was followed barely three minutes later by a gritty try for Scarlets hooker Ken Owens, which Halfpenny for once failed to convert, Wales seemed out of sight, with the scoreboard reading 20-6.

Outside half Dan Biggar, who had typically controlled things well for Wales, just failed to extend the lead further with a drop goal attempt – as replacements poured on for both sides – and it brought a belated fight-back by previously disconsolate South Africans, which yielded a converted try that suddenly edged them within touching distance at 20-13.

Alarm bells rang, but in the end, Tipuric it was who settled the nerves with a brilliant breakaway try, with just four minutes remaining.

Halfpenny applied the *coup de grace* to send the Welsh team to the dressing room with relieved smiles all round.

While the 12th successive defeat would not have improved Coetzee's prospects, in contrast, Howley and his fellow coaches can at least take some satisfaction from an autumn series that the history books (which do not record performance), will simply list as three wins out of four, including two prized southern hemisphere scalps.

Moreover, the Welsh camp know they have now been given a breathing space to work on mastering the 'new way' and prepare for a testing Six Nations – with the extra carrot of places being up for grabs on the British and Irish Lions' summer tour to New Zealand under Warren Gatland.

It could be the incentive they need to get up to speed with the rest of the pack!

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